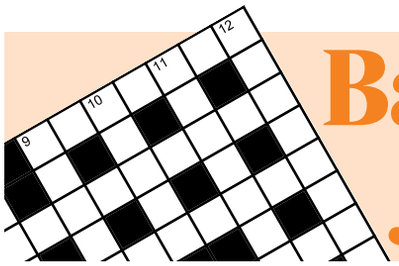
DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

THE TIMES

Monday August 31 2026 | thetimes.com | No 75125

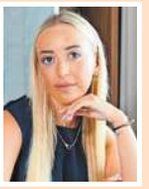
S1

£3.20 £2.35 to subscribers
(based on a 7 Day Print and Digital Subscription)



Bank holiday jumbo crossword

INSIDE TIMES2



I've applied for 100 jobs

NAOMI BAKER/GETTY IMAGES

United in grief The sons of PC Matthew Blades, who was killed in the A66 crash, walk out with Manchester United in their game against Ipswich Town Report, page 5

Early release blocked for manslaughter prisoners

PC Andrew Harper's killers to stay behind bars but thousands of criminals eligible to be let out

Ben Clatworthy Whitehall Editor
Jessica Sharkey Crime Correspondent
Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

The killers of PC Andrew Harper will remain behind bars but thousands of dangerous criminals will become eligible for release after Andy Burnham unveiled sweeping changes to the early release scheme.

The prime minister went further than expected as he said offenders jailed for all forms of manslaughter would be barred from release as well as those convicted of historic grooming offences, death by dangerous driving and causing or allowing the death of a child.

Burnham said that he had "spent the summer turning over every single stone" to restrict the scheme, which was introduced by Sir Keir Starmer to prevent the prison system collapsing through overcrowding. Last week there were 1,665 places free in men's jails.

About 1,400 prisoners, including Albert Bowers and Jessie Cole who killed Harper, will remain in their cells when Labour's early release scheme comes into effect in October. About 4,500 prisoners will be released early in the six months afterwards. Burnham stopped short of barring domestic abusers from early release, leading campaigners to warn of a "real and imminent risk" to victims.

He also paved the way for thousands of inmates serving indefinite sentences, called imprisonment for public protection (IPP), to be free by 2029. IPP sentences, which were abolished in 2012, were intended for people considered dangerous, but whose offence did not merit a life sentence.

Downing Street said Burnham would "end the injustice" of IPP sentences, a move successive governments have resisted. More than 2,000 IPP offenders are in jail, including 1,415 who have been recalled to prison.

Burnham said: "None of this is easy because people who were convicted under those [IPP] sentences did cause harm. So it's not an easy choice. It does need to be done in a very careful way with regard to public safety, national security and all of those issues."

Critics warned the plans would backfire and result in extra strain on the courts system and prisons. Alex Chalk,

Continued on page 6

US launches first strikes in a month against Iran

Susie Coen US Correspondent

The US last night launched strikes on Iran for the first time in a month.

The attacks were targeting rocket launchers positioned on an island in the Strait of Hormuz, an American official said. The strikes on Larak Island were ordered after Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces were observed preparing to launch rockets with sea mines into the waterway, according to the official.

Last week President Trump claimed all mines in the strait had been cleared and warned Iran that any ship or boat placing new mines would be destroyed.

Tehran's military claimed Iranian soldiers had been killed and injured in the strikes, saying in a statement there had been "martyrdom and injury of several of our fighters and compatriots". It said the attacks would "result in punishment of the aggressor".

The IRGC accused the US of spreading an "obvious lie" by claiming it was in control of the strait. It said Iran would block all vessels trying to pass through without co-ordinating with Tehran.

Last night's strikes were the first US attacks since July 29. They came two weeks after the expiry of a memorandum of understanding that gave the countries a 60-day deadline to reach a more substantial peace deal.

The Trump administration last week launched a wave of sanctions which it described as Operation Economic Outcast. Marco Rubio, the US secretary of state, had assured allies that Washington was pivoting towards sanctions rather than major combat operations.

Pete Hegseth, the secretary of war, has been warned that a large-scale operation against Tehran would be unsustainable, sources told The Washington Post. Military leaders reportedly said that continued fighting risked undermining America's ability to deal with both overseas and domestic threats. The heads of the US army, navy and air force were also said to have responded to an order this month to retain troops in the Middle East until next year with a "non-concur", meaning they disagree but will comply.

Regime still standing after six months of war, pages 22-23

IN THE NEWS

Cohabitees concern

Putting cohabitees on equal legal footing with married couples will swamp the courts with 10,000 more break-up cases annually, a senior family judge has warned. Page 2

Young 'lack soft skills'

Young people's lack of soft skills risks fuelling the growing problem of under-25s who are not in education, employment or training, businesses have said. Page 7

Nepal's mass grave

Dozens of bodies were buried in a mass grave in Nepal's Chitwan district after the government relaxed rules on handling corpses after last week's floods. Page 10

Chinese medicine

Creaking socialised medical systems, globalisation and international accreditation systems for private hospitals are driving western patients to seek help in China. Page 24

Borrowing costs rise

The cost of paying for newly sold UK government debt has hit its highest level in nearly three decades, underscoring the tough fiscal backdrop to October's budget. Page 27

England seal series

England beat Pakistan by 194 runs at Lord's to secure a Test series win. Joe Root urged his team-mates to celebrate in a "grown-up way" after a string of off-field incidents. Back page

News

Today's highlights

10.30am **Bronwen Maddox**, CEO of Chatham House
10.45am Nobel winner **Daron Acemoglu** on criticism from The Economist and his new book, *What Happened to Liberal Democracy?*
1.30pm **Ofer Cassif**, member of Israel's parliament, on settlements in the West Bank
2.30pm **Virginia Evans**, author of *The Correspondent*
5.35pm **John Bolton**, right, President Trump's former national security adviser

DAB RADIO FREE APP 'PLAY TIMES RADIO'
TIMESRadio

TODAY'S EDITION

NEWS

POT PLANTS
Heat helps farmers to grow bags of English tea
PAGE 14

SPORT

A TOUGH BLOW
Moses Itauma must learn lessons from first defeat
PAGE 46

TIMES2

PET PEEVE
My wife's cat Satan is striving to wreck our marriage
PAGE 3

COMMENT 17
LETTERS 20
LEADING ARTICLES 21
WORLD 22
BUSINESS 27
REGISTER 37
SPORT 44
CROSSWORD 52
TV & RADIO TIMES2

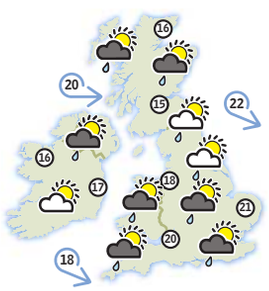
The man fighting to help the families of seriously ill children

When Ceri Menai-Davis's five-year-old son Hugh was diagnosed with cancer, his whole family's life was transformed, but the government did little to help. Could a new law change that?

Available on the Times Radio app or wherever you get your podcasts

OFFER
Save up to 30% with a subscription to The Times and The Sunday Times
THETIMES.COM/SUBSCRIBE

THE WEATHER



Sunny spells with the chance of a shower, some heavy in the afternoon. **Full forecast, page 41**

If a section of your Times is missing, please call 020-7711 1525 or e-mail help@timesplus.co.uk and we will send it to you, subject to availability.

©TIMES MEDIA LIMITED, 2026.
Published in print and all other derivative formats by Times Media Ltd, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF; telephone 020 7782 5000.
Printed by Newsprinters Holdings Ltd, Great Cambridge Rd, Waltham Cross, EN8 8DY; Kitling Rd, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN; and Byramsmuir Road, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 1NP.
Webprint, 2023 Bianconi Avenue, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin, Ireland. KP Services, La Rue Martel, La Rue des Pres Trading Estate, St Saviour, Jersey, JE2 7QR.
For permission to copy articles or headlines for internal information purposes contact NLA media access at copy@nla.co.uk; telephone 01892 525273.
For all other reproduction and licensing inquiries contact Licensing Department, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF; telephone 020 7711 7888; email enquiries@newslicensing.co.uk.

New rights for non-married couples 'will swamp courts'

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

Putting cohabitees on an equal legal footing with married couples will swamp the courts with 10,000 more break-up cases annually, a senior family judge has warned.

Edward Hess, deputy national lead judge of the financial remedies court, has predicted the government's commitment to giving similar rights to cohabitees as spouses on separation "will inevitably lead to a substantial increase of caseload". He forecast a surge of about 30 per cent in financial disputes.

His warning came days after the deadline for responses to the government's proposed reforms. The reforms would let cohabiting partners ask the courts to make orders over homes, pensions, property and other assets.

Writing in the Financial Remedies Journal, Hess argued that the government's plans could lead to a 27 per cent rise — to 16.5 million — in the number of couples eligible to make financial remedies claims. Figures from the Office for National Statistics published earlier this year showed that there were approximately 13 million married and 3.5 million cohabiting couples in the UK. In proposals published in June, justice ministers said that the government was "committed to supporting and protecting all types of families".

The consultation, which came against the backdrop of mounting concern that female cohabitees were especially likely to be disadvantaged financially when relationships broke down, said that greater protections were needed for "cohabitants who are in romantic, committed, long-term interdependent relationships".

A key plank of the proposal is couples who live together for three years, or who have a child together, would automatically gain legal rights and obligations covering property, pensions, financial provision and inheritance.

Hess noted there were currently between 35,000 to 40,000 consented applications for divorce from married couples and another 13,000 cases in which the financial arrangements were contested at court.

The judge said that it was "reasonable and prudent to assume that the separating non-married couples would produce a proportionate caseload", translating to between 9,400 to 10,800 consented case applications and about 3,500 contested applications, an increase of almost 30 per cent.

Hess noted that the government's impact assessment had given a "significant underestimate" of those figures.

Divorce law specialists agreed that the government's plans would considerably increase pressure on the courts.

"The lack of rights for cohabitants must be remedied," acknowledged Bryan Jones, a partner at the firm Hughes Fowler Carruthers, but he added that "a balance has to be struck between autonomy and automatic rights".

Jones said Hess was correct in his assessment "that the proposed changes will lead to a surge in applications".

Specialists pointed out that Hess's assessment did not take into account proposals from the Law Commission, the body that recommends reforms to ministers, for a one-year limitation on claims from cohabitees, which, if implemented, is likely to restrict the numbers of cases going to court.

The Ministry of Justice said that the government's plan "offers eligible cohabiting couples, in committed romantic relationships, a distinct set of rights from married couples, helping to preserve the sanctity of marriage".

Millionaires paying enough tax already, most voters say

Emma Powell

Most voters in Britain think that the country's wealthiest already pay their fair share of tax, research has suggested, as Andy Burnham faces calls to phase out the levy on capital gains.

Almost 70 per cent of the public said they believed enough tax was being paid already by Britain's wealthiest 1 per cent, according to a study by the Adam Smith Institute.

About two thirds of those surveyed acknowledged that taxes on ordinary workers would inevitably rise if lots of wealthy people left the country.

Separate research from the centre-right think tank last month found that the number of millionaires in the UK fell to 442,000 last year, down by 7 per cent year-on-year and the lowest since the 2008 financial crisis.

As the Office for National Statistics measures the value of household assets only every two years, there are no official figures for the exact number of millionaires living in the country.

The Adam Smith Institute has called for Andy Burnham to abolish inheritance tax, phase out capital gains tax and reform the non-doms tax regime. Non-dom status was formally scrapped in April last year. It had allowed some UK residents whose permanent homes were abroad to be exempt from tax on income earned overseas.

The capital gains levy is applied on assets such as shares or other investments that rise in value. It is applied at the point of sale and levied at 18 per cent for basic rate taxpayers and 24 per cent for higher and additional payers.

Burnham has said he will "look in detail" at equalising capital gains and income tax rates, but has made no policy commitment. He previously suggested abolishing inheritance tax and replacing it with a levy to fund social care.

Sir Mel Stride, the shadow chancellor, said: "Britain's patience is wearing thin with Labour's tax rises. The British people know, far better than this government, that prosperity is driven by people who want to build a better life, for them and their children.

"But that won't happen if we hunt down the aspirational and the wealth creators with ever more tax hikes, when they already bear the majority of the burden."

The prime minister has refused to rule out tax rises in the autumn budget, saying he "won't be unrealistic" about the state of the public finances.

'Rats, mould and insects' at Heathrow

Millie Turner

More than 250 workers at Heathrow have seen pests such as mice, rats and cockroaches, according to the Unite trade union.

Out of more than 1,600 airport staff surveyed, 82 per cent said there had been problems with workplace facilities in the past 12 months.

Almost a third said poor facilities had led to ill health. Toilets were a particular concern, with 61 per cent saying they were not clean. Staff also reported mould in common areas.

Pests were also reported by 16 per cent of workers. Of those surveyed, 91 per cent said infestations were not tackled quickly or successfully enough.

One worker told Unite they had witnessed a mouse drinking from a communal water fountain.

Sharon Graham, general secretary of Unite, called the staff facilities a "disgrace" and said the airport could "more than afford" to upgrade them.

Heathrow said: "We take the cleanliness of the airport incredibly seriously and have teams working day and night to keep Heathrow clean."

Call to stop UK research going abroad

Kaya Burgess Science Correspondent

Britain is missing out on profits from scientific research being carried out on UK soil because British academics have to take their discoveries overseas to find the investment to exploit it, the new science minister has warned.

Chris McDonald said world-leading science was being conducted at British institutions but the economic and commercial benefit was often being enjoyed elsewhere due to a lack of funding and laboratory space in Britain.

McDonald is a chemical engineer by training and spent 20 years in the steel industry. He was the industry minister before becoming minister for science, innovation and investment last month.

Before heading to North Carolina for a G20 innovation meeting this week focusing on the regulation of AI, he told The Times he had seen "a lot of this, where we would start and incubate the science in the UK, it would grow to a certain point, but then ultimately that last bit of investment will come from elsewhere, so the company will go overseas or the technology would. And so we're not seeing the benefit."

Universities could create spin-out companies to try to develop and market the innovations of their academics, but they were struggling to grow in the UK, he said. Businesses based on British research had been founded in the critical minerals sector, but "they've had to go to the US or elsewhere to access the financing to upscale, and so the intellectual property then leaves the UK".

He said that more private capital needed to be invested in British research to counter the view of many start-ups which "automatically assume they have to go to the US or to the EU" for funding. McDonald also warned that there was a lack of "industrial laboratory space" in the UK.

Cult cinema to star in legal drama over rent increase

MARK J TERRILL/AP; TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE

Danny Boyle with Freida Pinto and Dev Patel, the stars of his hit Slumdog Millionaire. Boyle is a fan of the Prince Charles

Several Oscar-winning directors are focusing on helping the historic Prince Charles Cinema, **Jonathan Ames** writes

Set in the heart of Leicester Square, in sharp contrast to its glitzy movie-house neighbours, sits what Oscar-winning director Danny Boyle describes as the "ninth wonder of the world".

The Prince Charles Cinema is one of the capital's oldest independent, privately run repertory cinemas — but it is now embroiled in a drama of its own as it fights a "punitive" rent rise.

Celebrities including Boyle's fellow Oscar-winning directors Sir Christopher Nolan and Paul Thomas Anderson are backing efforts to save the venue. Boyle has said that if it "ever closes its doors, life will continue but London will die a little death".

The cinema rents its premises from Criterion Capital, which is owned by Asif Aziz, a Malawian-born tycoon. He was described as "Britain's meanest commercial landlord" by The Sunday Times, which said he had used statutory demands to squeeze rent from tenants.

At the time, Aziz — who prefers the nickname, Mr West End — denied any wrongdoing on the part of Criterion, although he acknowledged that his business philosophy was to be "tough but fair".

Ben Freedman, the owner of the Prince Charles, told The Times that before its lease ended last year it entered talks to renew with Criterion under the terms of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, which provides for tenants to ask for an updated 15-year deal at the going market rate.

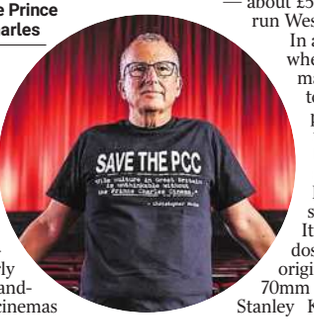
Freedman said Criterion instead offered a five-year lease "at what we estimate is double the market rate — and with a six-month break clause".

He said those terms would mean that "we couldn't invest in developing the cinema" and while it would be up to a court to decide whether Criterion's terms were legal, "the move seemed quite punitive".

Freedman said there was still a chance of a settlement with the landlord, but if no agreement were struck they would "end up in court". A pre-trial hearing is due to take place within days.

He has tooled up with A-list lawyers to match his supporters, having instructed Farrer & Co, the firm renowned for advising the royal family. "The process is very expensive," said Freedman, "but it is important to have good legal representation."

Asif Aziz owns Criterion Capital; Ben Freedman, below, runs the Prince Charles



Freedman, 65, is a Canadian who took over the business as a young entrepreneur in the early Nineties. His great grandfather ran two cinemas in Toronto before the First World War before the family moved into drive-ins in Ontario.

Freedman transformed the Prince Charles's programming into an eclectic mix of rare oddities and classics. He set ticket prices at £1 and launched his tenure with an obscure film about a killer goat.

Its two screens now attract annual audiences of about 250,000. Ticket prices have increased considerably, but non-members pay around £14 for a film — about £5 less than at first-run West End rivals.

In a business climate where British cinemas are struggling to recover from the pandemic and threatened by online streaming services, the Prince Charles is a success story. It caters to aficionados by showing original 35mm and 70mm prints, including Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* and a restoration of David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia*, among its programme of more than 850 films each year.

The cinema's membership scheme attracts some of the most dedicated film enthusiasts in the capital. A petition fighting the rent rise garnered 100,000 signatures within 12 hours.

That figure has since risen to 166,000 — and the campaign has attracted some of the biggest names in film.

"Film culture in Great Britain is unthinkable without the Prince Charles," said Nolan, the director of this summer's epic blockbuster *The Odyssey*.

Anderson, who dominated the Academy Awards last year with *One Battle After Another*, said: "Like tuning into your favourite radio station, the Prince Charles has a place in my heart. It's the people, the programming, the accessibility, feeling, texture ... you cannot go wrong." Other luminaries backing the Prince Charles include Quentin Tarantino; Paul Mescal, the star of *Hamnet*; and Edgar Wright, the director of *Shaun of the Dead*.

Criterion Capital was approached for comment.

Nostalgia for old video games gives them extra life at museum

Ed Halford

In the summer heat, as many flocked to beaches and beer gardens, others queued to step back in time.

Over the past few weeks, thousands of video game enthusiasts have lined up at the National Videogame Museum in Sheffield for an interactive exhibition putting 1980s and 1990s titles back in the spotlight.

The UK's only museum dedicated solely to video games has seen overwhelming demand from hobbyists eager to play titles such as *Doom* — a first-person shooter game — on a 1990s desktop PC, or to use a Commodore 64 computer in an 1980s, retro-themed living room.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Tomb Raider, featuring Lara Croft

John O'Shea, co-chief executive of the museum, said the 1990s "was phenomenal for video games and I think it's having a sort of coming-of-age moment in terms of its vintage".

At the Together We Play exhibition, visitors queued to play *Doom* in a bedroom recreated in a 1990s style complete with Nirvana posters.

"It feels very much of an era where teenagers would probably in the summer holidays have got out of bed and played *Doom* from morning till night," O'Shea said, then added, jokingly: "It doesn't have the smelly socks."

O'Shea, who has seen a significant proportion of visitors aged 20 to 35, believes the trend stems from people being "keen to have fully contained offline experiences".

This year is also the 30th anniversary of *Tomb Raider* and the 40th anniversary of *The Legend of Zelda*. Capitalising on this, the recent *Age of Empires II* grand final held at the Royal Albert Hall in April drew more than 3,000 in-person spectators.

Nostalgia plays a part in the retro gaming revival, according to O'Shea. "There's a generation now who might be in their thirties moving towards their forties who actually have money to spend on these games, which perhaps they didn't have at the time," he said.

Steve Bagley, a collector of Nintendo games and merchandise, believes gamers are craving "a throwback to simpler times". He said: "There's a lot of turmoil in the world ... but the simplicity of some of these games is just quite a happy thing to do."

Making a comparison to the vinyl music revival, O'Shea added that "video games are entering a kind of cycle where things come back around".

UK gaming expenditure reached £8.76 billion in 2025, up 7.4 per cent year-on-year, according to Ukie, the trade body for the industry.

News

GRANT PITCHER/GALLO/GETTY IMAGES

Fright flight Rugby fans in Cape Town roared in disbelief when two passenger jets dipped as low as 41ft above the stadium roof before kick-off between South Africa and New Zealand. Aviation commentators questioned the safety of the display, featuring Embraer planes in All Blacks livery and staged by Airlink. Analysis of the black boxes confirmed there had been "no deviation from the approved flight plans"

Don't trust influencers pushing health supplements, warns NHS

Eleanor Hayward Health Editor

Nearly half of Britons are spending more than £120 a year on supplements they see on social media, prompting the NHS to warn people not to trust "unqualified wellness influencers".

A report has revealed that adults pay £19 every month on average for health supplements such as collagen, creatine, fish oil, turmeric and magnesium, many of which are not backed by robust scientific evidence.

The drive to optimise "wellness" means six in ten people who buy supplements online have had to cut back on groceries, clothing or eating out to fund their habit, according to a survey of 8,002 adults by Bupa.

This has caused concern for the NHS and dieticians, who say that most supplements are a waste of money as the vast majority of adults can get all the nutrients they need from a healthy diet.

Supplement use has increased significantly in recent years, with the Bupa Wellbeing Index report finding that 72 per cent of people now take at least one supplement and 33 per cent take at least three a day. Some 46 per cent of people say they spend at least £10 a month on pills they have seen on sites such as Instagram and TikTok, with several adults admitting to paying more than £200 a month.

Adults aged 25 to 34 take more supplements than any other age group, and one third of this group believe influencers have more up-to-date health information than doctors.

Many vitamins or supplement powders are marketed for specific health conditions, such as ADHD, the menopause, fertility or women's health conditions such as endometriosis.

Hannah Feeney, 25, spends about £40 a month on supplements. She has struggled with endometriosis and adenomyosis symptoms for a decade, which leaves her with "pretty constant abdominal pain and pelvic pain".

Feeney, who works in health policy, said long NHS waiting lists and a lack of medical research into women's health meant there was a "big gap for influencers to fill". About half of the content she sees on Instagram relates to her health conditions, and she has bought several supplements based on the advice of influencers.

She said: "When the treatment options are so limited, it feels like there is not much to lose and I might as well give [supplements] a go."

Popular pills include collagen for wrinkles and anti-ageing, magnesium for sleep and stress, and turmeric to reduce inflammation. However, the only supplements routinely recommended by the NHS are folic acid in pregnancy and vitamin D for all adults in winter.

Hannah Feeney, 25, spends about £40 a month on pills she saw on social media

Professor Ramani Moonesinghe, deputy national medical director at NHS England, said: "Unqualified wellness influencers should not be setting the agenda for people's health. There is a lot of misinformation online, with supplements being promoted as essential to good health or as treatments for specific conditions without good evidence. For most people a healthy, balanced diet provides the nutrients they need. Some supplements may be harmful or interact with either over-the-counter or prescribed medicines, so before taking any, check NHS advice or speak to a healthcare professional."

Dr Caroline Wood, head of customer intelligence at Bupa UK, said: "The content we see online is increasingly tailored to our interests, behaviour and buying habits, making health messages feel more relevant, persuasive and credible than ever before. When conflicting advice is mixed with commercial influence, it can be difficult to separate evidence from opinion."

Clare Thornton-Wood, a spokeswoman for the British Dietetic Association, urged those considering supplements to focus on a healthy diet instead.

She said: "Supplements are presented as a quick fix, but there is no quick fix that will undo or make amends for what is overall a poor diet."

Chemists to offer 7-minute lipid checks

Poppy Koronka

Free seven-minute cholesterol checks will be offered in high street pharmacies across England to help spot heart attack and stroke risks early.

The finger-prick test will allow adults aged 40 to 84 to get instant results rather than waiting for lab analysis.

The test will measure patients' low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol and triglyceride in a lipid analyser.

High cholesterol levels cause plaque to build up in arteries, increasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Nearly 60 per cent of people in England had high cholesterol in 2021, according to the NHS.

David Webb, the chief pharmaceutical officer for England, said: "By making it easier for people to get a quick and convenient cholesterol health check on their local high street, we can spot ticking time bombs earlier, helping people take action, and prevent heart attacks and strokes before they happen."

The launch in 100 NHS pharmacies this autumn follows a pilot in north London by Barts Health NHS Trust and UCLPartners, in which 2,493 patients had their cholesterol checked. One in five was found to be at risk of a heart attack or stroke in the next decade. Those with high cholesterol were offered medications.

Alison McGovern, the health minister, said it was "exactly the type of innovation we want to see across the NHS".

"By making it possible to get a cholesterol check in just seven minutes at a local pharmacy, we're making it easier for people to spot potential problems earlier and take action to protect their health."

To help your heart, you can't beat a lie-in at the weekend

Poppy Koronka Health Correspondent

Hitting the snooze button at the weekend could boost heart health and ward off high blood pressure, research has suggested.

One hour and 27 minutes of extra sleep resulted in the most benefit to blood pressure, the study found. This amount was linked to a 9 per cent lower likelihood of high blood pressure.

Researchers said the results of the seven-year study of 41,000 adults suggested people should not feel "lazy or guilty" for staying under the covers.

"Not getting enough sleep puts extra stress on the body," said Dr Nawton Lee, from Korea University in Seoul. "It keeps the heart and blood vessels working harder and can increase blood pressure."

The average British adult records 6 to 6.4 hours of sleep per night, research and polling have found — far below the seven to nine recommended by the NHS. Not getting enough sleep can increase the risk of developing hypertension by preventing blood pressure from dropping at night.

Dr Sonya Babu-Narayan, clinical director at the British Heart Foundation and a consultant cardiologist, said: "This study is not a green light for physical activity to take a back seat, but for now perhaps we don't need to feel guilty about getting up late at the weekend."

Met police hail ‘positive’ 60th carnival

Jessica Sharkey Crime Correspondent

GUY BELL, ZUMA PRESS/ALAMY; ALISHIA ABODUNDE/GETTY IMAGES

Fledgling festival performers strut their stuff in the children’s day parade at the carnival. Police had made 169 arrests by yesterday evening, but said the level of serious violence was lower than in previous years

Almost 170 people were arrested at the Notting Hill Carnival yesterday as hundreds of thousands gathered for an “overwhelmingly positive” celebration, police said.

The event, now in its 60th year, is expected to attract about two million people over the bank holiday weekend. Festivities began at 6am yesterday for what is known as the event’s family day, when musicians, dancers and others covered each other in paint and powder before the children’s parade.

Floats, feather-clad dancers, steel drum bands and 36 sound systems blaring everything from reggae to samba took to the streets of Notting Hill.

Marking the 60th anniversary, Lord Khan of Tooting said London without the carnival was “almost impossible to imagine”. The mayor added: “What began as a local neighbourhood event has transformed into one of the greatest celebrations anywhere in the world, and a cornerstone of our city’s cultural calendar.”

The Metropolitan Police said the “vast majority” who attended were able to do so safely. A spokesman added: “While officers responded to a number of incidents as would be anticipated at an event of this scale, the mood has been overwhelmingly positive and celebratory.”

Officers made 169 arrests for offences including two knife assaults, possession of drugs, possession of weapons, assaults and sexual offences. Neither of the knife assaults resulted in life-changing or life-threatening injuries.

Scotland Yard previously announced that more than 7,000 officers would be deployed in west London over the bank holiday weekend. The number of stewards has been doubled to 3,000.

The use of live facial recognition technology, which led to 61 arrests and identification of 30 registered sex offenders last year, has also been stepped up. Yesterday 29 arrests were made using the technology. Frontline officers have also been granted temporary powers to stop and search people without needing grounds for suspicion.

In the lead-up to the event the Met said it seized 76 zombie knives, 40 flick knives and a machete which “could have been used” this weekend.

On Wednesday, the force worked with Greater Manchester police to arrest seven people suspected of being part of a gang that targets music festivals and events.

Matthew Phillip, the carnival’s chief executive, said it was “unfair” to blame the festival for violence. The carnival’s safety record was “very good” compared with other events of a similar size in London, he said, adding: “[It] is a victim of crime rather than a perpetrator of crime.” Last year, police made 528 arrests, including 167 for drug offences, 50 for possession of an offensive weapon, 21 for sexual offences, four for violence with injury and 49 for other violence. The cost of policing the event had increased from £11.7 million in 2023 to £15.7 million in 2025.

Commander Claire Smart, who is in charge of the policing operation, said yesterday: “The organisers have stepped forward significantly across the event, including [with regards to] crowd management, and we have seen the positive progress today. While we have seen a significant number of arrests and interventions by officers, the result of that proactive approach is a welcome reduction in the levels of serious violence seen at the event in previous years. Nobody involved in the delivery of the event is complacent, however. There are still many officers deployed across the footprint to ensure crowds disperse safely.”

The King should take pride in our Caribbean legacy, Tony Sewell, page 18

Sons of officer killed in A66 crash lead out Manchester United

Ben Ellery Deputy Chief Reporter
Charlotte Duncker Football Reporter

The two sons of a police officer killed in the A66 crash led Manchester United on to the pitch as mascots for the club’s first home game of the season.

PC Matthew Blades, 37, and PC Tom Clough, 38, died alongside five men when a Volkswagen Passat travelling on the wrong side of the dual carriageway collided with their marked police car in the early hours of August 22.

Blades, a regular at Old Trafford, was described by United as a “proud Red”.

The club contacted his family and invited them to attend a game of their choice. His widow, Sarah, and their two sons chose yesterday’s 5-2 Premier League victory over Ipswich Town.

The boys, who have not been named, walked out with the United captain Bruno Fernandes and the goalkeeper Senne Lammens before kick-off.

A tribute in the matchday programme read: “It is with great sadness that Manchester United learnt of the death of PC Matthew Blades and his colleague PC Tom Clough in an accident near Middlesbrough last weekend.

“For Matt, some of his happiest times were spent watching United with his boys. His wife Sarah and two children will be at today’s game, with his sons leading out the Reds as mascots.”

The club also published a tribute from one of Blades’s friends and colleagues, which read: “For Matthew, United was a lifelong love, a passion he shared with his family. Since Matt’s tragic death there has been an extraordinary outpouring of grief and support.

“That love has been seen in countless tributes and acts of kindness. Today, we remember a fellow Red. A husband. A father. A son. A brother. A friend. A police officer. A man who gave his life in the service of others. Forever our superhero.”

Matthew Blades was a “proud Red”

Theo Rae, 17, Cole Worthy, 17, Michael Cahill, 23, Jakub Matusiak, 23, and Makai Saddington, 18, were travelling in the Passat and died in the collision.

Four of the five had previous criminal convictions. Police are investigating whether the crash and a subsequent wave of violence across Middlesbrough and County Durham are connected to organised crime. Some residents have said they are now too frightened to leave their homes.

The area was further shaken when Valentina Foster, seven, and her aunt, Natalie McDonald, 34, died in a house fire in Middlesbrough. Two men were arrested on suspicion of murder.

Police have not linked the fire to the A66 crash but have said they cannot rule out a connection to wider organised crime.

Compassion alone won’t cure Britain’s ills, Libby Purves, page 19

Bereaved families share relief after weeks of trauma

Jessica Sharkey Crime Correspondent

Families who fought to keep their loved ones' killers behind bars have expressed relief after the government expanded the list of offences excluded from an early release scheme.

After weeks of uncertainty surrounding the policy, it was confirmed yesterday that those guilty of all forms of manslaughter, death by dangerous driving, allowing or causing the death of a child and historical indecent assault will no longer qualify for early release in October.

Calvin Buckley, whose pregnant partner Frankie Jules-Hough, 38, was killed in a 92mph motorway crash, said the policy reversal would "mean a great deal" to families, but stressed that "the uncertainty around whether offenders responsible for the most serious deaths could be released significantly earlier has been deeply distressing".

Jules-Hough's killer Adil Iqbal, then 22, was jailed for 12 years in 2023 for causing death by dangerous driving in Bury, Greater Manchester. The term was later increased to 15 years after being deemed unduly lenient.

Buckley said: "For many families, including ours, this [policy] has reopened trauma and created anxiety that could and should have been avoided. We should have had this clarity from the start, or at the very least much earlier ... bereaved families should not have to spend months worrying about whether the justice they were promised is suddenly going to change.

"While [the announcement on exemptions] is very welcome, I hope lessons are also learned from the way this has been handled. Families deserve clear communication, consideration and certainty when changes of this magnitude are being proposed."

Claire Corkery, 33, whose parents were killed by a dangerous driver in Bearsted, Kent, in 2024 while walking a friend's dog, shared the same relief after weeks of campaigning. Scott Gunn was

Calvin Buckley's pregnant partner Frankie Jules-Hough and the parents of Claire Corkery, below, were all killed as a result of dangerous driving

jailed for 16 years last year. "It often feels like deaths on our roads are treated as inevitable and therefore less serious," Corkery said. She plans to shift her campaigning focus to broader road safety reform, and said that overcrowded prisons were merely "one symptom of a system that's on its knees".

For the family of Archie York, who died aged seven after a drug dealer's illegal cannabis lab triggered a flat explosion, yesterday's news also brought long-awaited relief. Reece Galbraith, 33, was sentenced to 14 years in prison for the manslaughter of Archie and Jason Laws, 35, who was also using the drugs lab in Benwell, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Archie's mother, Katherine Errington, 29, told The Chronicle: "Reducing his sentence to potentially just seven years would have been an injustice. I am so happy that Archie's voice has been heard. These last weeks have been hard and horrible for us as a family, but we were not going to accept it, and we have finally got the news we wanted."

Gemma Chappell, 48, whose two-year-old great-niece Maya was violently shaken to death by her mother's partner in Shotton Colliery, Co Durham, in 2022, said she was "over the moon" that Maya's mother, Dana Carr, will now be exempt from early release.

While Michael Daymond was jailed for life for the murder, Carr received a nine-year sentence for child cruelty and allowing the death of a child — an offence that previously qualified for the early release policy.

"The weeks of campaigning have weighed on me a bit more than I thought," Chappell told The Times. "I feel a bit lighter and a lot more confident in the prime minister's decision. He's listened to victims' voices across the country. We've been very anxious ... this decision is the right decision. It goes some way toward building that trust with the prime minister and with families."

Indecent assault was added to the exclusion list after The Times revealed that historical child sex abusers remained eligible for early release. Because many offences — including cases linked to grooming gangs in Bradford — occurred before modern anti-grooming laws were introduced in 2003, some perpetrators were charged under older indecent assault laws, leaving them outside previous exemption criteria.

Among those affected was Vicki Crawford, 53, from London, who was assaulted at age 14 in the late 1980s. Her attacker was jailed for seven years in 2024. Crawford, who waived her anonymity, said yesterday. "After the most intense summer of campaigning, it feels amazing to know that the historical loophole has been fully closed."

Letters, page 20

'They will reoffend and come back'

Continued from page 1

the Tory former justice secretary, said: "They will reoffend and they will come straight back in through the doors." His concerns were echoed by David Gauke, who served in the role under Theresa May and was the architect of the early release scheme for Labour. He said the remaining IPPs had "been assessed repeatedly as being high risk".

Under the scheme, eligible criminals can be released halfway through their sentences rather than two thirds, or after serving a third rather than 40 per cent.

Last month Downing Street announced that about 1,000 rapists, child sex offenders and groomers would be exempt from the early release scheme. However, the changes did not affect those convicted of manslaughter, meaning Bowers and Cole would be among about 6,000 prisoners eligible. Bowers and Cole were jailed for 13 years in 2020. Harper, 28, was responding to a burglary in Berkshire in 2019 when his ankles became caught in a towrope. He was dragged more than a mile by a vehicle as three teenagers fled the scene of a quad bike theft.

Harper's mother, Debbie Adlam, said she was "grateful" for the change but the campaign to block his killers' release had been "exhausting". She told the BBC: "I'm glad we don't have to go through any more of this now, and they will get to serve what they were actually supposed to be serving."

PC Andrew Harper, who died in 2019, and his wife, Lissie

Burnham resisted calls to exclude or delay the release of domestic abusers because of the complexity of creating carve-outs. The MoJ said it would impose "some of the toughest restrictions to date" to mitigate their threat. This would include a presumption that all prison leavers will be tagged and restrictions imposed on where they can go. However, Dame Nicole Jacobs, the domestic abuse commissioner for England and Wales, said "victims and survivors will still be forced to take measures to protect themselves from dangerous abusers".

There are 123 prisons in England and Wales. In June, the prison population was about 86,000 and one in six jails had fewer than ten spaces available. In the first three months of this year there were 12,977 people released from prison and 13,193 recalled.

Burnham's act remains the same, leading article, page 21

Khan's sons attend Lord's Test after boycott row

Jemima Goldsmith attended the England-Pakistan Test at Lord's with her two sons days after an interview about their imprisoned father almost prompted a boycott by the visiting team (Ben Ellery writes).

Goldsmith, the former wife of Imran Khan, posted a picture of herself at the match yesterday with Sulaiman and Kasim on Instagram with the hashtag "FreeImranKhan". Their appearance came amid growing concern about the former Pakistan prime minister's health.

The brothers were interviewed by Michael Atherton at Lord's last week and said they feared their 73-year-old father might die in prison.

Sky Sports broadcast the 18-minute interview during the lunch interval on the first day of the Test on Thursday despite objections from the Pakistan Cricket Board, which had said its players might not return to the field if it was shown. The broadcast was delayed but went ahead and play resumed.

Before entering politics, Khan was one of Pakistan's greatest cricketers.

Burnham may find himself

Behind the story

Andy Burnham's decision to block all prisoners convicted of manslaughter from early release marks the culmination of weeks of rows over who would qualify for the government's latest scheme to tackle the overcrowding crisis in prisons (Matt Dathan writes).

Days after becoming prime minister last month he announced a pause to the scheme and ordered his justice secretary, Alex Norris, to carry out a rapid review.

It came after a public outcry triggered by news that two of PC Andrew Harper's killers would be released halfway through their 13-year sentences rather than at the two-thirds point.

Burnham and his team had already been planning to tweak the rules on who would qualify, but the case of Harper's killers added an urgency and priority to the plans that the Ministry of Justice had not been expecting.

Two weeks later Norris announced that rapists, serious child sex offenders and groomers would be excluded from the scheme.

Burnham at the time said he had stretched the numbers as far as he could, but after a further outcry he instructed Norris to go back to the drawing board to see if there was any way to free up more space.

Norris was caught between a rock and a hard place. Government

PAUL GILHAM/GETTY IMAGES

The picture posted yesterday by Jemima Goldsmith with her sons Kasim, on the left, and Sulaiman. Left, the brothers with Imran Khan in 2005

After retiring from the sport, he entered politics and became Pakistan's prime minister in 2018 but was removed in a parliamentary vote of confidence four years later.

He was arrested in 2023 and has since faced a series of prosecutions which he and his supporters say are intended to prevent him returning to power.

His sons, who live in London, say they have not seen him since 2022 and have been prevented from speaking to him for several months. They have accused the Pakistani authorities of holding him in extreme isolation and denying him adequate medical treatment.

Goldsmith, 52, has appealed to Pakistan's prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, to allow the brothers to visit their father, accusing the authorities of obstructing their visa applications. Concerns over Khan's health intensified after reports he had serious sight loss in his right eye. The Pakistani government has denied he has been mistreated and said he has received appropriate medical care.

Sport, page 52

Neets crisis made worse by youths' lack of soft skills

Ben Clatworthy Whitehall Editor

Young people's lack of soft skills, work readiness and resilience risks fuelling the unemployment crisis, business leaders have said.

Almost one million young people aged 16-24 are Neets (not in education, employment or training). Ministers are particularly concerned about the number of young men out of work; 54 per cent of Neets are male.

As part of research for the former minister Alan Milburn's review into the epidemic, which is due to be published in the autumn, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) asked business leaders what barriers they faced when hiring young people.

The biggest challenge, cited by 41 per cent of employers, was young adults' level of "soft skills or work readiness". The National Careers Service lists communication, decision-making, organisation and adaptability among the soft skills typically gained through schooling, work and life experience.

The next biggest concern was work experience, cited by 40 per cent. In the survey of 500 businesses, 32 per cent said resilience was a concern and 31 per cent worried about technical skills.

Research for Milburn's interim report, which was published in May, found that 84 per cent of Neets wanted to be learning or working.

Separate research by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) found that 37 per cent of employers had faced difficulties recruiting in the past year due to applicants lacking relevant soft skills.

Tina McKenzie, the national chair of the FSB, said: "That's why it is important not only to expand access to work experience and placements, but also to lay the foundations for employment success within the curriculum itself.

"Improving financial and enterprise education in schools, alongside the development of essential soft skills, will help equip students with the knowledge and confidence they need. When young people arrive in the workplace with a basic understanding of how working life, pay and enterprise operate, they are much better prepared."

Teachers also reported concerns. In a separate survey of more than 1,000 education professionals for Milburn's review, 66 per cent said they believed young people's preparedness for work had declined over the past five years, while 60 per cent reported a decline in soft skills over the same period.

Nearly three quarters said they believed there was too much focus on exams and that the curriculum should include more work-related skills "without lowering academic standards".

Figures released last week showed there were an estimated 981,000 people classed as Neet in the three months to June. This was a year-on-year increase of 30,000, of which men and boys accounted for 25,000, the Office for National Statistics said.

Milburn has called the Neet statistics a "scar on this country". His final report, due to be published in October, will include recommendations for how to bring the numbers down.

A source close to Milburn said: "While schools have to do more to focus on work readiness, employers have responsibility too, not least in expanding opportunities for youngsters."

Alan Milburn is due to publish his final report on youth unemployment in October

DWP research found 47 per cent of those aged 18-24, and just 36 per cent of Neets, agreed that they felt ready for work when they left education. Less than half said their school or college sufficiently supported them to develop the skills they need for the future.

However, Ben Harrison, the director of the Work Foundation at Lancaster University, said: "Employers have an important role to play too. We have heard from young people about recruitment processes that feel increasingly difficult to navigate, including the use of AI, repeated applications with little or no feedback, and expectations that candidates already have significant experience before they have had a chance to get a foot in the door."

The brutal reality of the graduate job hunt, Times2

fenced in after early release of prisoners

lawyers said it would be unlawful to single out Albert Bowers and Jessie Cole, two of Harper's killers. He would either have to exclude all those convicted of the same crime or none at all.

However, the 470 prisoners serving time for manslaughter was a large number of people to exclude from early release at a time when the Ministry of Justice desperately needed to find space in Britain's overcrowded jails.

That led officials to draw up proposals to only exclude prisoners convicted of the same specific offence that Bowers and Cole were sentenced for — unlawful act manslaughter, which applies to those who killed while committing another crime. But when The Times revealed that proposal was being considered, it triggered another public outcry because it would not have included prisoners convicted of voluntary manslaughter, a more serious offence that involves those who intended to kill and applies to many domestic killers.

In the end, Norris and Burnham decided to exclude all prisoners convicted of manslaughter. It means that 1,400 prisoners will be disqualified from the early release scheme over the next year, reducing the number being released from 5,900 to 4,500.

It will put greater pressure on prison places as measures announced to free up space, such as deporting foreign criminals, will take longer to take effect.

Space in men's jails is already running out, with 1,665 prison places free as of last week.

On the first day of the early release scheme on October 1, 700 prisoners will be released. Early releases will then take place on the first day of each month, with 650 freed early in each of November and December and then gradually falling to about 200 per month over the course of next year.

The changes being introduced by Burnham significantly dilute Labour's long-term solution to the prisons overcrowding crisis and raises questions about what it will do when jails inevitably start running out of space again.

It puts Labour dangerously close to the situation it inherited from the Conservatives two years ago, when prisons came within 80 places of running out of space altogether.

Probation officers fear 'stitch-up' over workload

Ollie Cole

The system for tracking probation workloads is set to be scrapped just weeks before Andy Burnham's revised early-release scheme comes into place.

The Workload Measurement Tool (WMT), used since 2018 to monitor whether probation staff are carrying safe caseloads, will not be used by the government from September.

The move has been branded an "incredible abdication of responsibility" by the sector's union, with no direct replacement due.

Ben Cockburn, national chair of the National Association of Probation Officers (Napo), warned the decision would open staff to greater pressures with no clear, central data on how overstretched the service was. He said Napo members felt the vast majority of probation staff saw the move as a "stitch-up".

Individual staff and their managers will instead take on total responsibility for deciding what is an acceptable workload for probation workers supervising people. The change comes as the probation service braces for increased pressure brought on by the government's attempt to free up space in jails.

Martin Jones, the probation watchdog, told The Times the probation service would probably find a way to make it work by "burning the midnight oil, working into the weekend".

The Ministry of Justice said: "Our hard-working probation staff deserve modern tools that make their jobs easier ... That's why we're retiring a 15-year-old system and introducing better digital tools."

News

Cambridge professor's 'Judas' row

Whistleblower's tribunal win shines a light on bullying and rivalries, **George Odling** and **Nicola Woolcock** write

EDDIE MULHOLLAND

It is a drama worthy of the campus novels of Kingsley Amis, David Lodge and CP Snow, with their depictions of internecine power struggles, jealousy, rivalry and petty revenge within academia.

A professor's battle to blow the whistle on bullying and misogyny at the University of Cambridge became so toxic that he discovered an image of Judas affixed to his office door.

The case of Professor Neil Wyn Evans, an astrophysics professor, exposes revelations about the culture under which some of Cambridge's academics work. It comes weeks after the death of Jason Arday, who had become the youngest black professor at Cambridge but was accused of plagiarism.

An employment tribunal found this month that Evans was victimised by the institute for highlighting "vile" treatment of female colleagues from senior staff.

Among the bizarre allegations that emerged were that the head of department spied on academics via their phones, obstructed funding to try to make a colleague redundant and then weaponised baseless counter-complaints when Evans tried to intervene.

Dr Gudrun Tausch-Pebody was supported by Professor Neil Wyn Evans

Cambridge dismissed multiple grievances about serious misconduct against Professor Richard McMahon, then allowed its legal insurance policy to be used to defend defamation allegations made against him.

Evans was vindicated by tribunal judges, who upheld 11 of his 14 complaints, but while he was attending the hearing an image of an infamous act of betrayal — Judas kissing Jesus in the Garden — was affixed to his office door.

"I don't know who did it," Evans said. "But it shows the department has some considerable problems it still needs to address, even after everything that had happened. It's a great shame."

A spokesperson for Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy said: "As soon as we were made aware of this poster it was swiftly removed and an email was sent to all staff reminding them of the standards of professional behaviour expected within our community."

The five-year debacle at the institute echoes campus fiction from some illustrious novelists. Snow and Amis worked at Cambridge, but Lodge turned down a post at the university fearing its "very competitive, critical, self-obsessed community".

Evans brought his claim after he felt the university retaliated against him when he blew the whistle in 2021 over the alleged bullying of a female colleague, Dr Gudrun Tausch-Pebody, at the hands of McMahon, who was head of department at the time.

At the centre of the row was a failure from McMahon to sign a form accepting European Commission funding for an astronomical project that constituted most of Tausch-Pebody's work.

McMahon had told Evans he wanted to "zero out" the project, and held up the grant for 37 weeks. Because of this, Tausch-Pebody was wrongly sent an end-of-contract consultation letter.

"Dr Pebody was alarmed by the letter and her evidence to us was that the funding was in place, or should have been in place, and therefore the letter should never have been sent," employment judge Graham found.

Cambridge dismissed the complaints against McMahon at the time, but noted he had accessed the university's wireless network during lockdown and used the IP addresses of phones belonging to Tausch-Pebody and another colleague to track their movements.

"This is something which Dr Pebody was very concerned about at the time and she remains concerned about it now," the judge said.

After the initial complaint was dismissed by the university, Evans made a series of protected disclosures about alleged academic malpractice, the grant delays and the impact on Tausch-Pebody.

When McMahon became aware, he launched his own complaint against Evans and two other professors, accusing them of bullying and making false allegations. Despite there being "no evidence" to support McMahon's claims, the allegations were accepted and Evans was subjected to a two-year investigation by the university.

The judgment noted the different treatment given to Evans's concerns, which were dismissed out of hand despite containing detailed evidence.

In July 2022 Evans launched a defamation claim against McMahon at the High Court. He later discovered that McMahon's defence to the defamation suit was funded by Cambridge's legal insurance policy.

McMahon had also tried to withdraw his claims in May 2023 but was met with resistance by the HR department and felt "under pressure" to fight the defamation claim, the judgment stated.

An image of Judas kissing Jesus was stuck to Evans's door

He later admitted the allegations against Evans were untrue, but faced no action from the university.

During the tribunal the panel was asked to make concessions for McMahon, who has been diagnosed with PTSD after a separate work-related bullying episode.

Judge Graham noted: "The cross-examination of Professor McMahon was incredibly difficult due to his mental health conditions, which meant that he would query the precise meaning of many of the words in the questions, for example the meaning of the word 'legitimate' which for many people is a word which is easy to understand."

Evans said the way the university fought the case through its high-profile barrister, Akua Reindorf KC, amounted to "character assassination." He added: "At one point the university's barrister accused me of crying crocodile tears about an employee who committed suicide ... It was particularly upsetting to me because a very close family member had died as a result of self-harm — a fact known to some at the university. It was an exceptionally dirty and unpleasant way to fight the tribunal."

The costs accrued by the university during the four-week tribunal are as yet unknown, but a KC of Reindorf's experience and calibre can charge up to £2,000 per hour.

In a statement after the findings were published, Professor Deborah Prentice, the Cambridge vice-chancellor, sought to distance herself from the scandal, which she said began before her time.

The judgment was scathing about her actions after it was shown Evans submitted multiple complaints to Prentice between 2023 and 2024 regarding the university's handling of the case. Prentice dismissed or declined to act on these without conducting meaningful inquiries herself, the judgment found.

And though she told the tribunal she had taken steps to "understand the history of the case" and had "worked closely" with a colleague to draft a letter dismissing one of the claims, the panel rejected her evidence.

The vice-chancellor's conduct, the judgment said, was part of a pattern of trying to "shut down" complaints to protect the university.

The tribunal ruling came four days before Arday was found dead on August 14, after his resignation a week earlier from his role at Jesus College amid scrutiny about alleged plagiarism.

Evans said Prentice had "failed in her lack of oversight or put excessive trust in a system rotten to the core, but she didn't put that system in place".

He added: "She has an opportunity to be a great, reforming vice-chancellor. I hope she can take it."

Palestine Action 'still raising funds'

Ben Ellery Deputy Chief Reporter
Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Palestine Action is still soliciting donations and recruiting supporters for direct-action training more than a year after it was proscribed as a terrorist organisation, an investigation has found.

A website using the name Palestine Action Global also directs visitors to an interactive map identifying more than 200 potential targets in Britain.

The Henry Jackson Society, a right-wing think tank, has written to the home secretary asking whether gaps in terrorism legislation or failures in enforcement have allowed the organisation to continue operating online.

The website remained accessible from Britain and allowed donors using ordinary bank cards to reach a payment page operated by Stripe, the US-based payments company. The site also seeks donations in cryptocurrency and tells supporters wishing to contribute more than £1,000 in cash to make contact. It says they will then be vetted and a payment method arranged.

Palestine Action Global says the money will be used to fund future actions, recruitment and training.

The website uses the same Palestine Action branding and logo that were displayed before the organisation was banned in July last year, the think tank said. Government guidance states that adopting a different name does not necessarily place an organisation outside the scope of a proscription order.

Palestine Action's proscription remains the subject of a legal challenge, which is due to be heard by the Supreme Court in November.

Palestine Action said: "The 'Palestine Action Global' platform will allow us to grow the international movement and share our global actions. Palestine Action is only proscribed in the United Kingdom. Therefore, Palestine Action Global does not include any groups in that region."

British woman stabbed to death at German station

Elizabeth Rushton

A 31-year-old British woman has died after being stabbed at a train station in southern Germany.

The woman, identified by local police and media as Rebecca B, was attacked in the city of Rosenheim in Bavaria at around 12.50am local time on Sunday. She received first aid, police said, but died of her injuries in hospital.

A 27-year-old suspect identified as Thomas A was arrested at the scene of the attack. According to the tabloid Bild, he was homeless and unlikely to have known the victim. Police said the suspect had appeared before a magistrate and would continue to be held in custody but had not yet been charged in relation to the attack.

Police presence in Rosenheim was already heightened due to the start on Saturday of the city's autumn festival, a local answer to Munich's Oktoberfest.

Bild said the victim had arrived in Munich on a flight from Heathrow late on Saturday night and may have planned to travel on to Austria.

MAX MUMBY/INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES

The plant will be on land owned by Harry Aubrey-Fletcher, seen at Ascot with William, Kate and Sir Gareth Southgate

Prince's friend in biogas plant row

One of Prince William's closest friends plans to lease 15 acres of his estate to a biogas project, drawing furious objections from locals (Mark Hollingsworth writes).

Harry Aubrey-Fletcher, 44, an adviser to the Duchy of Cornwall who has been a close friend of the Prince of Wales since their days at Ludgrove and Eton, owns Chilton Home Farms in Buckinghamshire. He has agreed to lease part of his own private land at Hornage Farm to Acorn Bioenergy, which plans to build the biggest biogas-to-grid digestion plant in England.

Digestion plants take organic material such as agricultural waste, purpose-grown crops or food waste and use bacteria to break the material down in sealed tanks with no oxygen. The methane-rich gas created is captured and cleaned to make biomethane gas, which can be sold on the national gas network.

Local people argue that the plant will harm the environment and jeopardise road safety by introducing an estimated 30,000 HGV trips through nine villages. John Brown, whose farm adjoins the site, said: "This is not a proposal for green or sustainable energy produced by waste material. Don't be fooled. What is required by the plant will be transported from miles away and I do not see how the local rural infrastructure will cope."

A spokesperson for Say No to Acorn told The Times: "The proposed plant in open countryside will create significant harm to road safety because of the exceptional burden from HGVs on rural roads. It will harm the landscape [and] heritage and leaves important questions unresolved about water supply, pollution, odour, noise, technical capacity and environmental benefit."

Acorn Bioenergy, which is owned by Qualitas Energy, a Spanish private equity company, said in a joint statement with Aubrey-Fletcher: "Hornage Green Power will help tackle the energy crisis by providing enough renewable gas to heat 9,500 homes.

"Throughout the four-year-long planning process we have listened carefully to feedback from the community. We have designed our proposals to ensure there are no unacceptable impacts on local people while ensuring the best possible proposals for farmers and the environment."

Acorn Bioenergy plans to press ahead. The council will meet on Wednesday to decide whether to grant planning permission.

Who wants to live at Royal Lodge?

Kate Mansey

The former home of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor could soon be on the market, but any prospective tenant will have to pass strict security checks.

Royal Lodge, the 30-room mansion in Windsor Great Park, was vacated by Andrew in February after he came under pressure to leave from his brother, the King.

After revelations about his friendship with the late paedophile Jeffrey Epstein, Andrew was forced to relinquish the lease on the estate and move into a more modest home on the King's Sandringham estate in Norfolk.

The Crown Estate, which owns the Royal Lodge, will assess its condition before deciding its future.

The property, which includes a vast mansion, various outhouses and a swimming pool, has provided accommodation to senior members of the royal family for decades.

Its future as a royal home now appears in doubt because no other member of the family wants to take up the lease, the Mail on Sunday reported.

Andrew remains legally responsible for the property until October, despite having moved out.

From October the Crown Estate will be able to lease Royal Lodge, providing the tenant passes stringent security checks and can maintain the upkeep on the property, which is estimated to cost at least £400,000 a year.

There was once speculation that the Prince and Princess of Wales might take on the property. Kensington Palace dismissed these rumours and the family settled in the nearby Forest Lodge, which has been described as the family's "for ever home".

Kate may join William in India as royals plan for busy autumn

Kate Mansey Assistant Editor

The Princess of Wales may join her husband on a visit to India during a busy autumn of royal engagements following the return of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex to the UK.

Palace sources have reiterated that the Sussexes are not working members of the royal family and there will be no "half in, half out" role for them despite Prince Harry and Meghan reportedly planning their own schedule of public appearances.

Harry is expected to attend the Well-Child awards ceremony in September.

Meanwhile, the King and other senior members of the royal family will forge ahead with a "business as usual" autumn schedule, albeit one with some notable highlights.

A source said: "Autumn will be a busy one but it's not in any way a reaction to the Sussexes' return. These engagements take months and sometimes years of preparation to pull together so it's a case of business as usual."

If the Princess of Wales joins Prince William in Mumbai in November for the Earthshot Prize ceremony, which is run by the couple's Royal Foundation, it will be the first substantive joint foreign visit for the Waleses in four years.

Kate, 44, last attended the environmental awards in December 2022 with William when it was held in Boston, US.

In 2023, the couple made a brief public appearance overseas at the wedding of Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II to Rajwa Al Saif in Jordan.

In 2024, Kate received cancer treatment and has since been making a slow but steady return to royal duties.

In May, she made a solo visit to Reggio Emilia, Italy, to continue her research into early childhood.

Meanwhile, plans are in place for Charles and Camilla to visit Antigua and Barbuda in October, where the King will address the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Prior to that, the King will make a state visit to Guyana and a royal visit to the Bahamas, where Charles is head of state.

Royal sources will be hoping that the meticulous planning for the foreign trips, plus numerous UK engagements, will not be overshadowed by the Sussexes' return.

It seems that Harry and Meghan are keen to make their presence felt, however, to draw attention to charities supported by the duke. Meghan may also be keen to use a family base in the Cotswolds to draw in a new market for her lifestyle brand, As Ever.

The Sussexes' move to the UK came as something of a surprise. Harry had previously said that it was too dangerous for him and his family to return.

The duke's long-running battle to reinstate his UK police protection is still ongoing despite losing his legal case against the Home Office in May 2025.

At the time, Harry described the defeat as a "good old-fashioned establishment stitch-up". This month, Harry, who served two tours of duty in Afghanistan, wrote to Shabana Mahmood, the home secretary, to ask her to look at his case.

In the letter, Harry's legal team is understood to have alleged that the head of Ravec, the committee that meets to advise whether members of the royal family and other VIPs should receive police protection, failed to pass on information to him about a 2023 threat from al-Qaeda.

The threat was not passed on to the duke, his security team or the authorities in the US, where he was living at the time, the Sunday Times reported.

Andy Burnham, the prime minister, has refused to be drawn on Harry and Meghan's security arrangements in the UK, saying it was a "private matter".

One source described the Sussexes' return as "rushed", adding that Harry had not discussed the plans with his father when he visited the King and Queen at Highgrove with his wife and children in July.

King drafted in Globe star for White House speech

Kate Mansey

With their self-deprecating humour and theatrical references to Shakespeare, the King's speeches at the White House and US Congress won plaudits on both sides of the Atlantic.

Now it has emerged that Charles had a little help from a friend: Sir Mark Rylance. The King consulted the *Wolf Hall* actor, and first artistic director of Shakespeare's Globe in London, while drafting his speeches, which were praised for their humour and diplomacy. He sought help from Rylance and "a range of external partners as well as taking advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office and the British embassy in the US", The Daily Telegraph reported.

This research allowed the King to deliver two well-received speeches that contributed to the success of his state visit to the US in April. At a White House dinner, he told guests that Washington was home to more Shakespeare Folios than anywhere else in the world. There are 82 copies preserved at the Folger Library.

He went on to quote a plea for peace spoken by the Duke of Burgundy at the conclusion of Shakespeare's *Henry V*, saying: "My speech entreats, that I may know... why gentle Peace should not ... bless us with her former qualities."

In his address to a joint meeting of Congress, Charles quoted Oscar Wilde and Abraham Lincoln and made a reference to Charles Dickens, joking that the history of the US and UK could be described as "a tale of two Georges". He was given standing ovations by Democrats and Republicans alike.

President Trump described the King's speech to Congress as "great", adding: "He got the Democrats to stand. I've never been able to do that. I was very jealous."

Rylance, who wrote the play *I am Shakespeare*, met Charles in 1995. The men are said to share a love of Shakespeare and an interest in crop circles.

News Nepal floods

Mass grave in forest for unnamed flood victims

Hundreds of corpses remain unidentified as mortuaries struggle and burials are rushed, writes **David Brown**

A mound of rich red earth shaded by vibrant forest foliage marks the first mass grave for unidentified victims of Nepal's devastating floods.

Searches for 2,502 missing people continue alongside burials of the dead, as mortuaries in the Himalayan nation have been overwhelmed.

A crisis response team from the UK has arrived in Kathmandu to support the families of the 33 missing British tourists, many Hindu pilgrims, including a girl aged 13 and a 14-year-old boy.

Rescue teams looking for survivors and the bodies of victims were warned on Sunday to "exercise caution" as the raging floodwaters rose again.

The disaster began with a glacier breaking off close to the border between Tibet and Nepal on Wednesday. Bodies are washing up 60 miles away on the banks of the Narayani in the Chitwan district, where the river finally calms and becomes shallow close to the border with India.

Rambuda Dhakal, 28, was swept away but relatives hope he will be found

Many corpses are badly mutilated and severely decomposed. The authorities in Chitwan had by Sunday identified only four of the 233 remains. Nationally, only a few dozen of the 781 corpses were given a name.

The government issued an emergency directive on Saturday relaxing the rules on the handling of unidentified corpses.

A peaceful forest on the outskirts of Devghat in Chitwan was selected as the location for the first mass grave. The authorities buried 96 unidentified remains on Saturday and planned to bury more than 100 others on Sunday.

Inspector Anil Thapa, who is overseeing one of the facilities holding corpses in Chitwan, said: "The bodies are decaying fast. More than half are beyond recognition. Many have no visible faces."

The mass burials are a sensitive issue in a predominantly Hindu nation where the dead are traditionally cremated on funeral pyres.

Baburam Bhattarai, a former prime minister, said it was inappropriate to dispose of bodies before search and rescue operations were complete and without broader consultation with families of the missing.

Ruby Chaudhary, who has two missing relatives, said: "The dead deserve to be treated with dignity. Our tradition is to cremate them on the riverbank, surrounded by their immediate family."

Images of the recovered bodies are being displayed on a screen outside a makeshift morgue in Bharatpur, Chitwan, to help relatives identify the victims before they are sent for burial.

However, with so many corpses badly disfigured, there are occasions where several families have claimed the same body. "We had a case where two families said one of the dead bodies was their relative," said Devendra Poudel, a local Red Cross volunteer. "But when we showed them the body, one of the women realised it wasn't her husband because there was a tattoo on the arm."

The disaster's continuing impact became clear on Sunday on the main road linking Kathmandu to Chitwan.

A 40ft surge along the Trishuli River left many homes in the village of Baireni buried in coarse grey sand.

While families dug through the mud to recover possessions, those living in the surviving properties loaded items on to lorries as a new landslide along the banks meant they feared they were about to fall into the water below.

On the outskirts of the far side of the village we picked up a 17-year-old girl and her 12-year-old brother, who asked to be carried through the 2ft deep water which covered the route ahead. They had been visiting their village in the mountains and were returning to rented rooms close to their school.

Remains of collapsed bridges whose enormous concrete spans were submerged half a mile downstream are a sobering reminder of the destructive power of the water just feet from the edge of the road. Five hours into the

ABTA Travel with confidence

Please see www.tui.co.uk/cruise or the relevant brochure for full booking terms and conditions that apply. Some of the flights and flight-inclusive holidays are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. But ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services listed that we offer. Our website and brochures will provide you with information on the protection that applies in the case of each holiday and travel service offered before you make your booking. If you do not receive an ATOL Certificate, the booking will not be ATOL protected. If you do receive an ATOL Certificate but all the parts of your trip are not listed on it, those parts will not be ATOL protected. Please see our booking conditions for information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.caa.co.uk. Marella Cruises Limited are members of TUI Group. Registered Office: Wigmore House, Wigmore Lane, Luton, LU2 9TN. Registered in England, for Marella Cruises Limited No: 12562788. ABTA No: Y6722 and ATOL No: 11878.

ROJAN SHRESTHA FOR THE TIMES

Residents attempt to salvage some belongings after a 40ft surge along the Trishuli River left homes in the village of Baireni buried or covered in coarse grey sand; top right, a boy finds something to play with in the ruins

journey an anxious soldier waved down our car at the village of Furke Khola, Malekhu. A landslide five minutes earlier dangerously undermined the road at a sharp bend in the river ahead.

Rina Magar, 35, who runs a hotel in the village, said: "I saw the land begin sliding and then within five to ten minutes it became massive. It is being carried into the river."

We watched as tens of tonnes of soil was washed away, leaving the road surface hanging precariously in the air.

The mass burials of victims of the floods was announced by Balendra Shah, the prime minister, in a social media post. "Bodies that cannot be identified will be managed by the government after preserving DNA and other evidence that could help establish their identity," he wrote.

Each corpse is given an identification number before police take photographs in an attempt to match the remains to reports of missing people using tattoos, clothing, jewellery, documents and even school ties.

Deputy Inspector General Abi Narayan Kafle, a police spokesman, told The Kathmandu Post: "If family members come forward in the future to claim a missing relative, these scientific and legal records will allow us to confirm identity and locate the burial plot."

More than 1,000 relatives of the missing have attended a display of photographs of 102 bodies at the morgue in Pokhara on the shore of Phewa Lake. Those identified include Sushma Dahal and her two-year-old daughter Ranika.

Back in the safety of Kathmandu, the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital has become a place of hope and despair for relatives. The hospital's morgue was where the bodies of victims from across the country were taken for identification before the numbers became too great.

Sita May Tamang and her family were handing out flyers outside the hospital featuring a photograph of her brother, hoping it would help him stand out among rows of similar posters taped to the wall. She has not heard from her brother, Sabahas Tamang, 32, a lorry driver, since he was preparing to cross into China when the flood struck.

"He may be injured in the hospital," said Tamang, 30. "But really I have no hope. I have come to see his body in the morgue, to say goodbye."

Community halls, police compounds and other buildings are being used as temporary morgues. Many lack proper refrigeration, and decomposition is accelerating in the summer heat.

Subas Sunar, a volunteer at a centre in Bharatpur being used to store the bodies, told The Kathmandu Post: "The odour outside the holding facility has become unbearable. It is becoming extremely difficult for volunteers and police personnel to remain nearby."

Relatives waiting outside the army barracks at Battar, in the region that suffered the full force of the flood, complained of the smell as helicopters began delivering an increasing number of body bags along with the survivors.

Some families are angry with the authorities, who they believe have been too slow with the search operation.

Kalpana Shrestha is looking for ten relatives who disappeared when the flood hit their village of Betrawati in Nuwakot district. She has produced posters showing her two sisters, their three children and other close family members. "I have no idea where my sisters and their children are now and nobody in the government is doing anything to help," she said. "I am doing everything I can. I am putting up posters, I am posting messages on Facebook and Twitter, everything I can think of.

"I am very, very tired. It is impossible for me to get up to the village. I am relying on the government to help me."

Ramchandra Neupane, a clinical scientist at the Tribhuvan hospital, is searching for two brothers, close relatives from his village of Bhadaure in Kalika. Rambuda Dhakal, 28, and Arjun Dhakal, 37, were swept away while working on a construction site in Timure close to the Tibet border.

"Many people from the village are working on hydropower projects in Timure," he said. "We know many workers from the power plants have been rescued from tunnels, so we hope they will still be found."

He added sadly: "When the bodies are brought in they are mutilated, so it is very hard to identify them."

Search continues for hydropower workers trapped in tunnels

Amrit Dhillon Delhi

Long before the torrents of freezing water swept down the mountain and washed away entire communities, the Nepalese had dug deep and bet big on the power of glacial rivers to revive the fortunes of those same communities.

Companies from India, China and elsewhere have invested in hydropower in the Himalayas. Hundreds of their workers were underground when the flooding hit and yesterday Nepalese rescuers were desperately attempting to reach many still trapped and believed to be alive.

The focus of rescue efforts was at Trishuli 3A hydropower plant in Nepal's Rasuwa district, where workers bored a hole into the earth to pump in air and drop down food. They called out but received no response. "Work is now underway to bring in larger equipment, carry out blasting and widen the opening to make the rescue operation easier and faster," said the office of Nepal's prime minister, Balendra Shah.

Among those to survive was Ram Chandra, a hydropower worker who described tightly gripping one of the rungs studded into the roof of the tunnel he was working in on the banks of the Trishuli river. "The water was rising and it was difficult to move my legs," he told CNN. "If I had let go from that rung I would have fallen.

"There were six of us and we later found someone else at the gate of the tunnel." He added that by the time they emerged, six hours later, the waters had removed their clothing.

Up to 900 hydropower workers are missing, according to authorities, while 279 have been rescued. Many of the missing are Indian and had been working on several projects in Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts, the worst-hit areas.

Madan Singh Budha had come off the night shift at Upper Trishuli tunnel number two when disaster hit. "When I looked outside, I could see water and so I started running up the hill," he told CNN after being brought down from the disaster zone by helicopter yesterday. "The hill was rocky, with grass growing in between. We used that grass to hold on to as we climbed.

Rescuers bring workers out of a hydropower tunnel in Rasuwa district in the wake of the flash floods that devastated the area

"Those who weren't able to climb up were swept away."

In India, hundreds of families are waiting to hear from missing relatives. Some of the missing were trekking, working, or in the area as pilgrims visiting Mount Kailash in Tibet, a Hindu shrine thought to be the mythical cosmic axis that holds up the universe.

China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, told his Nepalese counterpart on Saturday that the mudslide was their "most severe cross-border disaster" in recent years and that rescue operations were of unprecedented difficulty, the Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said.

Among the 261 foreign citizens from 23 countries missing on the Tibetan side were 104 from Nepal, 49 from India,33 Latvians, 18 Americans and 15 Britons.

Beijing and Kathmandu are working together to identify the missing.

Nepal has said it does not need foreign help for general rescue, but Lok Bahadur Chhetri, speaking for the foreign ministry, said the country needed assistance in tunnel rescue, DNA testing, refrigerated storage for bodies and forensic identification of decomposed remains. Indian and Chinese experts are helping efforts to open tunnels.

China has mobilised more than 2,100 rescue workers and allocated at least 220 million yuan (£24 million) to support relief efforts. It is also providing emergency cash aid, disaster relief supplies, satellite and hydrological data and tunnel rescue experts to Nepal.

China used heavy-lift drones as helicopters began airdropping equipment and supplies to frontline rescuers near the border crossing. Soldiers continue to search for those still missing.

News

DAVID MCHUGH/BRIGHTON PICTURES

Mod squad Thousands of mods scooted to Brighton seafront at the weekend for the traditional bank holiday celebration featuring music, markets and biking displays

Class teaches teens about consent in the age of 'extreme misogyny'

Experts hope education can reverse an increase in sexual offences involving youngsters, writes **David Woode**

Inside a classroom, a group of pupils taking part in an interactive workshop about healthy relationships are asked to solve a teenage girl's dilemma.

A boy has invited her to his house. They start kissing and she is intimately touched. The girl says "no" but is ignored. She turns to the camera and asks, "What should I do?"

"Girls have told us 'we'd just go through with it' even though in the eyes of an adult this is a sexual offence," said Dr Junior Smart, the founder of the SOS Project at St Giles Trust, a charity that supports people experiencing exploitation, poverty and homelessness.

At SOS+ workshops, children learn about the risks of exploitation and violence and are encouraged to consider the long-term impact of their decisions.

"When we've unpacked it, I've seen girls bury their faces in their hands. Some will defend the perpetrator and say she didn't want it to happen but it wasn't sexual assault," Smart said.

"Some boys say, 'She wasn't really saying no. Every girl who has done this secretly wants it.' It's hard going but it underlines why these sessions are so important."

Last year 1,068 teen-on-teen sexual offences (including rape) were recorded by the Metropolitan Police, up from 1,039 in 2024. Between January 1 and July 31 this year, police logged 718 offences in the capital, according to Met figures disclosed to The Times.

Across England and Wales, 50 per cent of 81,659 child sexual abuse and exploitation offences were committed by children aged 10-17 in 2024, the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme reported last year.

Campaigners said the rise in reported sexual offences by young people was likely to be "partially driven by growing awareness that these behaviours constitute an offence and an increased desire to see accountability". Janaya Walker, the interim director of the End Violence Against Women Coalition, said: "It is also possible that we are seeing the impact of the extreme misogyny served up to young people online each day, including violent pornography. This abuse is entirely preventable."

Daniel Thompson, the Met's lead officer for rape and serious sexual offences, said: "These are intensely personal crimes. It takes courage to report any offence but when it's sexual violence, particularly involving children, we know there are barriers to overcome. Part of this is about ensuring young victims understand when behaviour crosses the criminal threshold." He gave choking as an example. "Do people understand how little pressure on the neck can potentially cause death?"

The porn actress Bonnie Blue toured universities to recruit teens for scenes

Strangulation is depicted in pornography that is freely available online. More than half of 16 to 34-year-olds have been strangled or have strangled someone during sex, a study found last year.

Police investigations into rape and other sexual offences were overhauled after a government-led rape review in 2021 found a "significant decline" in convictions. Operation Soteria, a victim-centred, suspect-focused and context-led investigative model, was created and all 43 forces in England and Wales signed up to it in July 2023.

Rape conviction rates are rising but last year Lady Angiolini, a former lord advocate, recommended multi-year funding for Soteria to ensure a lasting impact. Ministers and police chiefs are yet to accept this and the 12 other recommendations she made regarding women's safety in public spaces.

Thompson said: "Our charge rate has increased [and] the chances of getting justice are higher now than I think they ever have been. We want victims to know if they come forward about something that happened yesterday or ten years ago, they will get the same service, and we will look at every case."

In May the pornographic actress Bonnie Blue was challenged over her responsibility in "promulgating gangbang culture". Blue, 27, whose real name is Tia Billinger and who began broadcasting on OnlyFans, previously toured universities to recruit "barely legal" teenagers to film sex scenes.

Shelagh Fogarty of LBC asked: "Boys [will] see that material and think, 'I wonder if I can do that?' Girls [will] either fear it happening or think, 'Maybe this is how I have to accept sex when I'm a teenager?' Does that not worry you at all in terms of responsibility?"

Blue, who gave birth to her first child at the weekend, said: "Those girls wouldn't have to feel scared because of my content. I say, 'I want to do this, this is what I enjoy' ... Too much responsibility is put on me. All I am responsible for is having sex with consensual adults that want to be involved."

In June, Sir Keir Starmer's government said children would be "given back their childhoods" after announcing that social media access for under-16s would be banned by next spring.

The government has also promised to make sex and relationship education mandatory until 18, but ministers have not said when this will begin.

Walker said: "This education is more important than ever. No one wants to see women and girls traumatised by sexual violence or the only intervention being boys and young men criminalised after the harm has occurred."

Quintagram® No 2660

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Punch, thump (3)

_ _ _

2 Accounts entry for a sum owed (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Solar illumination (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Cross-examine, interrogate (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Set piece in football (4,4)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

B	C	D	E	E	E	E	F
G	H	H	I	I	I	I	I
K	K	L	N	N	O	Q	R
S	S	T	T	T	T	U	U

Solutions see T2 MindGames p15
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames p14

Plea to LGBT veterans

Hundreds of LGBT veterans have been urged to claim compensation for the military's historic ban on gay and trans personnel before a deadline on December 12. Under the ban, which was lifted in 2000, men and women were subjected to brutal interrogations and bullying or were forced out of service, often with long-term impacts on their lives and careers. A financial redress scheme offers claimants £50,000 discharge payments and up to £20,000 in additional impact payments. More than 1,500 people have applied, but the charity Fighting with Pride said at least 1,000 were yet to come forward and that unexpectedly low numbers had applied from Yorkshire, the North East, the South West and Scotland.

Homophobia persists in public life, Matthew Parris, page 17

Baby girl murder arrests

Seven people have been arrested on suspicion of murder after a newborn girl was pronounced dead at an address in the Wincobank area of Sheffield. Police were called to the property shortly before 6am yesterday. Detective Chief Inspector Emma Knight said that officers were "working to determine the ages of some of those arrested".

Pub chain apology

A terminally ill man was refused service at a Wetherspoon pub in Caerphilly, south Wales, after staff there mistook the symptoms of his medical condition for drunkeness. Wetherspoon apologised to Matthew Ball, 22, who suffers from Niemann-Pick disease type C, a rare genetic disorder that affects his speech, balance and mobility.

TIMESRadio
Breakfast: 6am to 10am
Our free radio station has all the latest headlines, interviews and debates every morning
Listen seven days a week
On DAB, app, website and smart speaker

I will always love reading, thanks to Dolly's generosity

A baby in Rotherham was an early beneficiary of the star's book scheme, **Nicola Woolcock** and **George Odling** write

JULIAN BENJAMIN FOR THE TIMES

The Jarman family were visited at hospital in Rotherham by the singer in 2008

Most new mothers expect a few friends and relatives to pop into the maternity ward as they recover. Claire Jarman only just had time to ring her husband, Shane, to tell him Dolly Parton was on her way to meet their newborn, Emma, before the singer arrived at Rotherham hospital.

The country star was in town to launch the European operation of her Imagination Library, which has since given seven million free books to children across the UK. She chatted to the Jarmans and gave their daughter a cuddle — and a book.

Emma, now 18 and about to begin a degree in biomedical science in Cardiff, told The Times that Parton's visit and her scheme had inspired a lifelong love of reading.

Her parents moved from South Yorkshire to Hampshire, where they run a nursery. Some of the books sent to Emma and her sister are still being read by its children.

Emma Jarman, now 18, is starting a biomedical science degree at Cardiff

Emma said of Parton's visit to the hospital: "My parents were asked if they would like to meet her and for me to be involved. They were quite awestruck — Dad was at work because he was a head teacher at the time. Mum called him — she was still in the hospital — and he came from the school for the visit. I think he was quite shocked to get that phone call. They just said how incredible it was to meet her, the whole experience was amazing.

"Growing up my parents were telling me about the visit quite a bit. When I was younger I remember getting all of these books and reading them with my mum and dad." The biggest excitement was opening her own post, she said. "I still love reading to this day. I quite like sci-fi books at the minute and lots of different genres.

"I find that books are a great way to come off screens. I prefer to have a physical book in the evenings. It stops me from scrolling on my phone."

Of Parton's death last week, she said: "It was quite upsetting to hear obviously because she was such an incredible lady, she did so much for so many people and I think her legacy will carry on. It's great that it benefits so many other children as well."

Parton had pledged her support for The Sunday Times's Get Britain Reading campaign. She joined more than 100 public figures asking readers to read for pleasure for at least ten minutes a day, donate to the charity Bookbanks or volunteer to read to children with Coram Beanstalk. She said of the campaign: "Together we can gift the love of reading that will last a lifetime."

Among her Imagination Library's beneficiaries is three-year-old Indigo Syron, who asks her mother when packages arrive: "Is it from Dolly?"

The family have been receiving books from the Imagination Library since a midwife recommended the scheme. Indigo's mother, Tallulah Syron, said: "We are massive readers in our house. She always has two books before bed and it's just such a lovely thing to receive every month."

The music publicist, 33, from Camberwell in south London, said the "amazing" scheme was particularly important "for families who might not have the means to buy lots of books for their children". She added: "That one-on-one time reading with your child before bedtime is so special. Indigo has a book about Dolly and is now really interested in her life. It's such an incredible legacy."

Sarah Jane, an education professional and mother of two from Southwark, southeast London, discovered the Imagination Library at a local health centre, where a cardboard cutout of Parton advertised the programme. Her children Sonny, five, and Cora, three, have been signed up since they were only a few months old.

"They get a little note each time and it comes addressed personally to them, so it's a really exciting little monthly delivery," Jane said. "It goes through to nursery rhymes, simple stories, and then they get a bit more complex. They must work really hard on it because it perfectly fits with them through the ages and stages ... it's definitely helped both of them ignite the joy of reading and books and hopefully it'll stick with them.

"They've had this idea of who this nice lady called Dolly is who sends them books. I've played them some of her music, so they know *9 to 5* and *Jolene*, and we talked about her a little bit the other day ... to have that level of fame, to then pay it back in that way, I just think is amazing."

Additional reporting by Edie Holt

Drug-driver said partner's death was a hit-and-run

Nadeem Badshah

A drug-driver caused his girlfriend's death and lied to police that she had died in a hit-and-run incident.

Matthew DuPlessis was sentenced to nine years and three months at Chester crown court on Friday.

He had admitted at an earlier hearing to causing death by careless driving while unfit through drugs and perverting the course of justice.

DuPlessis and Charlotte Dodd, both 35, had been arguing in the early hours of September 23, 2023, when she left the van as it was moving. A passerby stopped his car when he saw Dodd lying in the road in Congleton. DuPlessis, of Crewe, told the stranger Dodd had been struck by a dark vehicle.

DCI Dave Hutcheon said that DuPlessis had told witnesses, his own parents, paramedics and police at the scene that "he and Charlotte were walking along Padgbury Lane having been out drinking and that Charlotte was dancing in the carriageway".

He added that although police had been unable to determine "how Charlotte came to leave the van", DuPlessis had "concocted his story to cover up that he was responsible for her death".

Advertising Standards Authority
asa.org.uk

Ads. We keep them in check.

Whether you love them or hate them.

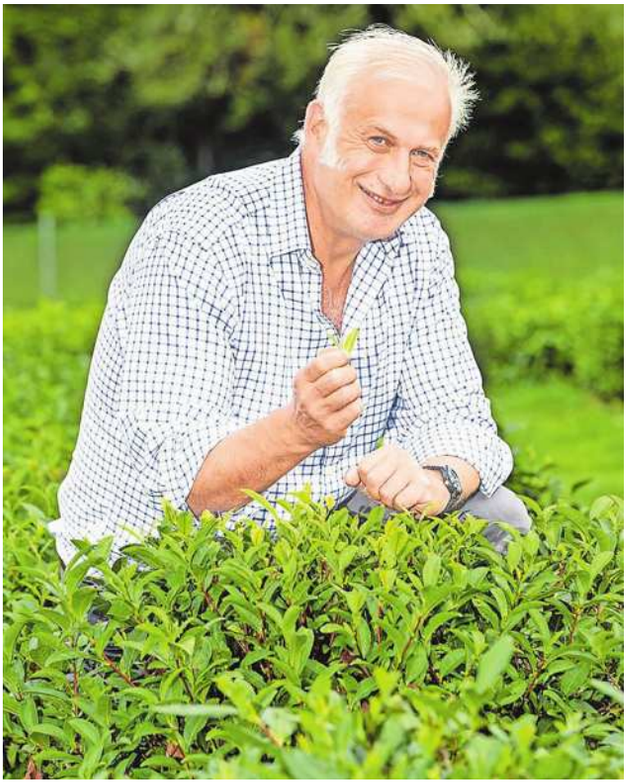
ASA

Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful

News

Turning over a new leaf with English tea

Farming entrepreneurs take advantage of hot summers to grow tea bushes full of flavour, **Eleanor Tait** writes



JON SANTA CRUZ FOR THE TIMES

Mark Wyatt, of the Banks Tea Estate in Mountfield, East Sussex, says "you can almost watch the leaves dance as they unfurl and release their flavours" for the farm's homegrown tea

While a passion for taking tea has long since seeped into British life, growing the stuff that stirs and soothes us is probably something very few of us have ever considered.

Yet, as the country experiences burning hot summers with temperatures reaching Mediterranean levels, farming entrepreneurs such as Mark Wyatt from Mountfield, East Sussex, are finding ways to diversify from existing crops to take advantage of weather he describes as the "new normal", and grow truly English tea.

He already grows about 8,500 tea plants on his farm, Banks Tea Estate. Wyatt plans to double the number in the next few years after a successful gamble inspired by the impressive results of English sparkling wine producers in the southeast.

"We wondered what would happen if we approached making tea the way it was done traditionally, but injected science and some passion," Wyatt said. "I put in some testing plants and nurtured them as one would an offspring — and it worked."

The most highly prized teas grown in places such as China, Sri Lanka, and India are usually grown at altitude and slowly, over many years, ultimately creating a product rich in flavour and health benefits.

Wyatt says that the weather, temperature and even the time of day you harvest the tea influences its taste.

"You want the leaves to be plump and fresh in order to capture all the goodness that exists within their cell structure," Wyatt said. "The way that you manufacture the tea to get the leaf to yield those benefits is really important — the benefits range from mental wellbeing, to antioxidants, to youthful vitality."

He added: "I did a tasting yesterday, and one of the comments somebody made was, 'This drink makes me feel alive!' — how beautiful is that?"

While the UK has recently seen a trickle of tea farming output from Cornwall, Wales, and Dartmoor, Wyatt's tea is the one of the few that is single blend and entirely homegrown.

"The feedback isn't just, 'Isn't it novel that we're growing tea in England', it's, 'Isn't it brilliant that this stands up against tea in countries that have been making it for centuries.' We want people to buy it because it's brilliant."

A 5g tin of Premium Black English Tea is priced at £11 on The Banks Tea Company's website and Wyatt's produce is certainly a luxury investment — not just in a top quality brew, but what he claims is an enriching experience that bigger tea brands don't necessarily offer.

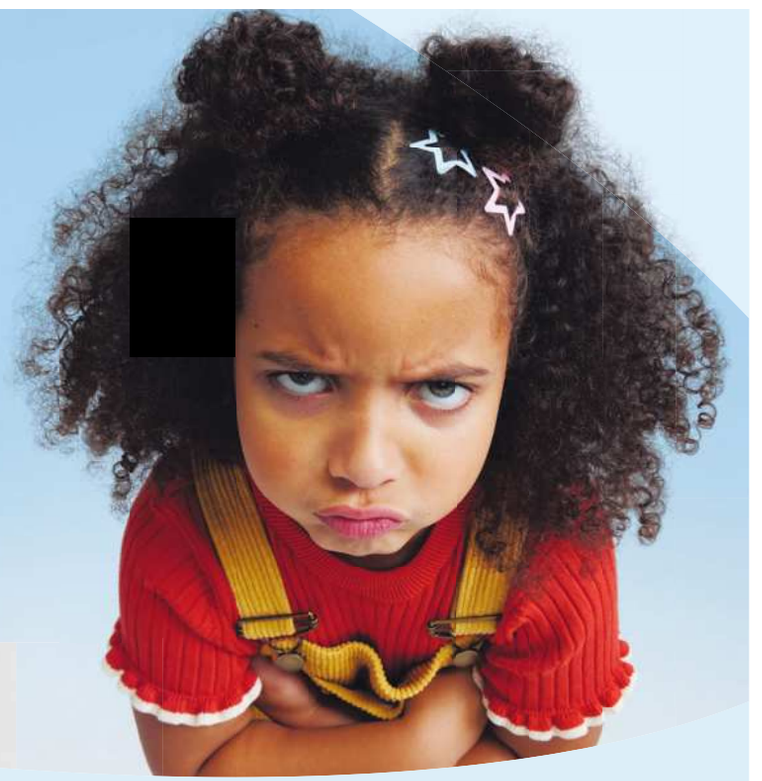
"We make whole leaf tea — you can almost watch the leaves dance as they unfurl and release their flavours and their health benefits. It's a wholly different drink."

Homegrown tea enhances the nation's culture, leading article, page 21

You didn't hear her hilarious joke, again.

Now you owe her an ice cream.

Book a free hearing test.* Do it for your grandchild.



Spread the cost with 0% monthly payment plans**

Visit **bootshearingcare.com** or call **0345 200 7052†**

*Over 18s and Hearingcare stores only. ** Requires minimum 10% deposit. Boots Hearingcare is a credit broker, introducing credit provided by Novuna Personal Finance. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Subject to acceptance, terms and conditions apply †Local call rates apply, mobiles may vary.

Boots Hearingcare
With you. For life.

Tears in rain as Fontaines DC bring the emotion

Pop Blanca Schofield

Reading Festival
★★★★☆

The Fontaines DC singer Grian Chatten is usually a man of few words. I've seen Ireland's biggest band since U2 five times and the most Chatten has said on every previous occasion is "thank you"; he prefers to immerse himself in the Fontaines' brilliant, gritty but romantic post-punk-meets-rock-meets-pop music.

But not at this year's Reading Festival (which also starred Raye and Florence + the Machine). An hour into Fontaines DC's headline set, 31-year-old Chatten opened up: "It's been a very hard time for us over the last couple of months. It's nice for us to be back here in front of people who ..."

Here he choked up, leaving the crowd to acknowledge the unsaid with a wave of applause.

The band's manager, Trevor Dietz, died in early June and this typically mesmerising show was dotted with tributes to him, from Chatten's "Trev" tattoo on his hand, to the "Trevor forever" writing on a guitar projected onto the screens and Chatten saying, "Love you, Trev," after a moving rendition of their hit *Favourite* as the moon broke through the clouds. Never mind that they arrived on stage 25 minutes late — the Brit winners left no doubt of the quality of gigs they will be delivering as they embark on their tour in autumn for their fifth album, *Dopamine Chamber*.

KATY BLACKWOOD/SHUTTERSTOCK

Grian Chatten paid tribute to his band's manager. Below, Skepta battled the downpours

This came after Charli XCX delivered a standout concert. The 34-year-old British pop star received mixed reviews for her recent record, *Music, Fashion, Film* — her pivot into rock after the dance explosion that was *Brat* in 2024. But at Reading it worked perfectly, especially with the stage design that had her standing atop a giant speaker that at times resembled an abandoned house, a fitting image for an album that captures the feeling of raving through dystopia. For this she was accompanied by dancers strutting as if in an ominous fashion show, following a thrilling segment from *Brat* with *Girl, So Confusing* (one of the best pop songs of this decade) that had some of the best choreography I've seen, featuring bodies that were both restless and synchronised.

She was blessed by a reprieve from the deluge that somewhat thwarted the north London rapper Skepta's mainstage slot and led many to seek refuge in the tent hosting the 6 Music dad favourites the New York rockers Geese. Spotted in the crowd were Charli XCX's producers and music video director revelling in the Geese frontman Cameron Winter's head-banging romance. Not a bad way to spend a rainy weekend.

Bridge's automatic payment system takes its toll on drivers

Rachel Howarth, George Odling

When Nicola Hardy first received the penalty notice through the post, her initial reaction was confusion.

The 51-year-old had never heard of the toll bridge she was supposed to have crossed, and the accompanying image of a vehicle was nothing more than a murky, grey rectangle.

"I had to google Warburton Toll Bridge, because I've never heard of it or been near it," the mother of three, from Hyde, Greater Manchester, said. "I was supposed to have crossed it in January, but didn't get this notice until May.

Hardy, a deputy manager at a bookmakers, received further letters from a debt collection agency named DCBL demanding a £176 fine for failing to pay the £1 charge.

Previously, drivers crossing the Warburton Toll Bridge, which has linked Cheshire and Greater Manchester for more than 160 years, would hand 12p in loose change to a toll booth operator.

In November last year, however, the manned booths were removed, the charge was increased to £1 and automatic number plate recognition cameras were installed.

The result has been chaotic, and it was reported in June that there had been more than 138,000 non-compliant journeys so far this year.

Connor Rand, the Labour MP for Altrincham & Sale West, said his office has been inundated with hundreds of complaints about wrongly issued fines related to the bridge, which is owned by Peel Ports.

Among those to have received multiple penalties is 96-year-old Kenneth Hampton, from Northwich, in Cheshire. Hampton, who has been diagnosed with stage four cancer, regularly crossed the bridge to visit his late wife's sister and had always paid the 12p charge, but understood that his blue badge meant he was exempt from paying the new digitised toll.

"Being of a certain age, he didn't realise that you had to link the blue badge to an app for it to apply, and he just kept crossing the bridge," Hampton's granddaughter, Sharon Burke, 47, said. Hampton received one unpaid toll charge notice from Excel Parking, which operates the tolls, before further letters arrived from the debt collection agency until the fines reached more than £800.

Warburton Toll Bridge brought in new tolls but Kenneth Hampton, 96, understood he was exempt

After a Times inquiry, Excel Parking, which operates the tolls, said the fines against Hampton had been cancelled.

The company suggested Hardy's number plate may have been cloned.

Peel Ports claimed there was "no evidence of systemic concern" and that successful appeals equate to 0.43 per cent of the 9,000 daily crossings, meaning that fines have been "overwhelmingly legitimate and sent correctly".

"We and Excel will continue to investigate any specific examples provided and it will be for Excel to implement changes from any lessons learned."

Excel Parking Services added: "We have found no evidence of any systemic issues with the operation of the payment, ANPR or enforcement systems. Our assessment is that the systems are operating correctly and in accordance with the requirements of the scheme. Where concerns are raised, they are carefully investigated and considered on their individual merits."

Tributes to pastor killed at festival

A man who died after a sign fell at a Christian festival was a respected pastor who was "a loving husband" and "a devoted and caring father" to his family, his church has said.

Robert Guanco, 41, was named in a tribute from the Jesus Living Water Church Eastbourne as wellwishers set up a Go Fund Me page for his family.

Six others were injured, including four who were taken to hospital, after the incident at the Big Church Festival (BCF) in West Sussex on Friday.

Festivalgoers said they rushed to lift a heavy sign which read "Everything's Unmissable" which had toppled in the wind, witnesses said.

Guanco, of Eastbourne, was described as "our beloved pastor Robert" in a tribute from his church yesterday.

It said: "Pastor Robert was a faithful servant of God, a loving husband to Isay, a devoted and caring father to Ellie, and a blessing to so many people whose lives he touched. His life, his faith, his love and his service to God will never be forgotten."

Organisers of the BCF, billed as the UK's biggest Christian festival, said they were "heartbroken" and "devastated" as they cancelled the rest of the event.

The Most Rev Dame Sarah Mullally, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said she was "sad and shocked", stating: "I pray for his family, friends and loved ones as they grieve."

The incident has been reported to the Health and Safety Executive and local authority, Sussex police have said.

Detective Chief Superintendent Richard McDonagh urged anyone who was among the "thousands of people" who were on site that had any information or video footage to come forward.

Medieval Viking church uncovered by students

Pupils have discovered the remains of what is thought to be a medieval Viking church on an uninhabited island.

The Gordonstoun pupils made the discovery on an archaeological field trip to Swona, a tiny Orkney island where only feral cattle live. The building bears similarities to other Viking churches from the 10th and 11th centuries.

Students and staff from Gordonstoun, a private school in Moray that the King attended, worked with professionals from the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (Orca).

The remains of the church, including what is thought to be the foundation for its altar, were found beneath a more recent building on the island.

It is hoped that radiocarbon dating of samples taken by the pupils will offer more information about the structure.

The trip to Swona was organised by Dan McLean, a housemaster. He said: "The only real hint about a church being on the island is a map reference to a ruin known locally as the 'Twinly Kirk'. It was a special moment to confirm to the students that they had helped to uncover a piece of Viking history that could be up to 1,000 years old."

Ten pupils from the school took a ten-hour trip to reach Swona, about seven miles north of John o'Groats. Paul Clark, Orca's senior project manager, said: "The students showed great enthusiasm getting involved in the dig and it was an exciting moment for everyone."

Student Archie Maclean, 17, said: "Being able to discover history in real time was incredible."

News

Nemo prepped for submarine rescue

It is a piece of equipment that the Ministry of Defence hopes never to have to use (Larisa Brown writes).

But in a recent exercise, troops and police officers mobilised one of the world's leading submarine rescue systems. Officers rehearsed moving the vehicle from its headquarters in Glasgow to RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, to prove it could be flown by the RAF to anywhere in the world at short notice to help distressed submariners escape the ocean floor.

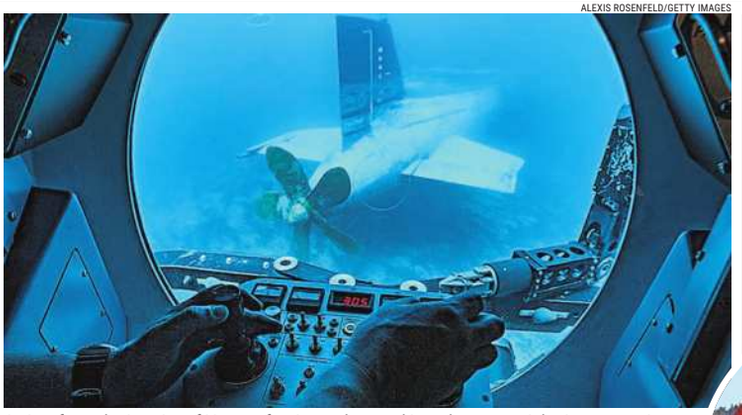
Nicknamed "Nemo" after Captain Nemo, the character from Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, the Nato submarine rescue system is a tri-national government capability jointly owned by France, Norway and the UK. Developed to be fully air-mobile, it can evacuate stricken submariners from a submarine disabled on the seabed — at depths down to 610 metres.

With 350 tonnes of equipment that needs 27 lorries and several aircraft to mobilise, Exercise Flying Fish was deemed key to proving the system can respond quickly to an emergency. A police escort was practised during the event, with every force between Glasgow and RAF Brize Norton utilised to provide a constant blue light presence to the convoy.

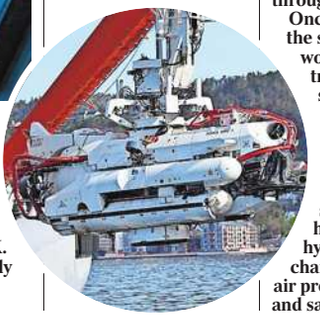
With space for 12 passengers and three crew, Nemo would have to do multiple trips to empty an entire submarine, docking on the top of the vessel to allow the submariners to escape through its hatch.

Once safely aboard the submersible, they would be transported to the surface and transferred to a decompression system on a support ship. They would then spend up to 72 hours in confined hyperbaric chambers where the air pressure is slowly and safely lowered.

ALEXIS ROSENFELD/GETTY IMAGES



A view from the interior of Nemo after it was lowered into the water, right, in an exercise



TIMES Events

Delia Smith's Nine Ingredients to Change our World

Delia Smith taught a nation how to cook; now, one of Britain's most trusted voices is calling for a different kind of transformation. Join Delia in conversation with chief correspondent **Martin Samuel** to discuss her new book, *Us: Nine Ingredients to Change Our World*. Drawing on a lifetime of experience, Delia will explore the values that bind us together and why real political change must grow from the ground up.

Thursday, November 12 | 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Bryanston Square, London W1H 1PQ

Book your tickets at **thetimes.com/events**

Javid: Stigma a reason brother took own life

Charlie Parker

Like thousands of people who die by suicide every year in the UK, Sir Sajid Javid's brother suffered in silence.

"He didn't talk to anyone — his closest family, his closest friends — about what he was going through in his mind," Javid said of Tariq, 51, who took his own life in a hotel near Horsham, West Sussex, in 2018. "We think that a large part of it was stigma."

The former health secretary and chancellor has since been on a "deeply personal" mission to prevent suicides.

He has now joined a group of leading psychiatrists, charity bosses and MPs from across the political spectrum to warn that stigma is costing thousands of lives and the NHS billions of pounds a year. They are urging Andy Burnham, the prime minister, to launch a national suicide prevention campaign to encourage more people to seek help.

More than 7,000 people take their own lives each year in the UK, but over 70 per cent of them were not in contact with specialist mental health services that could have provided life-saving care. Each suicide is estimated to cost the UK economy at least £1.4 million and affect more than 100 people.

It was only after Tariq's death that Javid learnt his brother had a physical health problem that he had not told anyone about. "I think that a campaign like this, for people who are in that situation today and held back by stigma, will make a difference and save lives," he told The Times.

Shame and fear are among the main reasons people suffer in isolation, according to Philip Pirie, a bereaved father who rallied experts and politicians around the country to pressure the prime minister to combat the crisis.

A suicide prevention strategy adopted by the government identified the need to reduce the stigma surrounding suicide, but there has never been a sustained, nationwide public health campaign to address it. Pirie argued that the move would be self-financing: "If it costs £50 million over five years, that's £10 million a year. You only have to save seven lives a year to pay for that."

Forty MPs, including the former health secretary Sir Jeremy Hunt, as well as the presidents of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of General Practitioners backed the idea. In a letter to Burnham, shared with The Times, the group warned that suicide is the biggest killer of young people and that the number of deaths by suicide is increasing year on year.

Javid said: "Having been both health secretary and chancellor, I do accept the argument that a public health campaign more than pays for itself."

Sarah Olney, the Liberal Democrat MP who helped to co-ordinate the call for the campaign, said it was needed "not only to encourage people to talk to their loved ones about their ideations, but also to help the loved ones know how they can best support someone suffering".

The Department of Health and Social Care said: "Through our suicide prevention strategy, we are expanding support, intervening earlier and working to reduce suicide rates.

"More broadly, we are transforming mental health services through record investment of £16.1 billion."

For confidential support, contact the Samaritans on 116 123 or visit www.samaritans.org

Sajid Javid, left, with his older brother Tariq, who took his own life in 2018

King should take pride in our Caribbean legacy
Tony Sewell
Page 18

Comment

Streeting abuse proves intolerance persists

Decades of progress have not eliminated an undercurrent of homophobia in public life, angrily voiced on social media

Matthew Parris

'Water off a duck's back," remarked our new defence secretary last week. He had described an "unbelievable volume" of online homophobic abuse directed against him, Britain's first openly gay man in that job.

Well, yes. There wasn't much doubt about Lord Kitchener, but "openly"? Not quite. Wes Streeting is right — and brave.

Be clear that he's not inviting pity today. His miseries will have been faced, and faced down, a quarter of a century ago. In Saturday's Times the singer Will Young said the same. In most gay men's lives, the time of trial was the early years. Peter Kyle MP has spoken about how it felt as a teenager in the era of Margaret Thatcher's Section 28, believing even the government was against you.

It's better now. Teenage boys who think they might be gay will not feel confronted by this era's mailed fist, as Streeting, Young, Kyle or I did. Being gay is officially fine. John Major broke decades-thick ice by reducing the age of gay male consent to 18; Tony Blair reduced it further and introduced civil partnerships; David Cameron gave us marriage. Politics has done all it can. Public and polite opinion has moved wonderfully fast, too — a tribute, I think, to our national instinct to live and let live.

But there remains an undercurrent, and our defence secretary's experience points to its strength. Already I can half-hear a fair few of my readers this week bridling at having homosexuality "thrust down our throats again" when "nobody cares, anyway". I recognise this attitude in online comments in both The Times and The Spectator. Though in the 7,000-odd columns I've written only a few deal with homosexuality, I've noticed that if what you write suggests your partner is male then to some readers this is "thrusting it down our throats". They wouldn't say (or feel) this if you mentioned a female partner.

I know well enough where the irritable muttering comes from: people who don't like the easy acceptance of same-sex attraction but, knowing open resistance would be against the spirit of the age, won't quite say so. They are, however, legion and the anonymity of social media gives cover to the angriest among them to join the abuse Streeting describes.

We often lament anonymity because it "brings out" an element of humanity that is distasteful to us. But indicators are useful. They should be acknowledged and faced. Myself, I neither know nor care whether abuse is directed against me on social media. I'm not on it, left Twitter/X years ago and would regard the "storms" or "pile-ons" that are said to occur in these places as one might regard events on Jupiter. I'm not there.

> Twitter pile-ons are like events on Jupiter — I'm not there

But a defence secretary has no such luxury and Streeting is right to notice the weather in parts of social media because what's anonymous is part of the collective unconscious of a nation. So how far have we come on attitudes to homosexuality? Follow me back nearly half a century...

I was 31 and recently elected to parliament. One night, after a dinner with a cabinet minister, I was driving towards the west side of Clapham Common, where I lived. I knew gay men "cruised" on the common at night for sex. I'd done so myself. Before reaching the north side I parked and continued on foot, intending to short-cut across the common. What possessed me? Reckless, idiotic, dangerous of course, and I had to grit my teeth to tell this story in my autobiography.

My path was paved, under trees. Two young white men came walking the other way, towards me, through the dark. All I remember next is a terrific blow to the jaw, felling me to the ground, where I lay as they kicked me in the ribs and head. How did I get to my feet? I don't know, but soon I was running for my life. They gave chase but I lost them.

I'd been a stupid victim of what was called queer-bashing. We'll never know how many others were too — probably thousands — because few would report such things to the police.

Home safe but with broken ribs, a cracked jaw and bloodied shirt, I stared at myself in the bathroom mirror, talked to myself without self-pity and promised from then on to work in parliament for homosexual rights.

I still have that shirt and in the Commons kept my promise. Later, I joined Sir Ian McKellen, Michael Cashman and others to campaign against Section 28; Peter Mandelson helped privately with advice and Richard Branson gave us a room in his club, Heaven, for meetings. This led us to form Stonewall, which for years did good, effective work.

Wes Streeting became the country's first openly gay defence secretary

I'm afraid Stonewall has since lost its way, distracted by trans issues, an important but entirely separable subject. Gays are not boys who want to be girls, nor lesbians girls who want to be boys. Stonewall now generates revenue by marketing its seal of approval, but in a world that's moving away from ritual corporate curtseying to the desiderata of the hour. This is a pity because there is work to do: work on that "unbelievable volume" of online abuse that Streeting encounters.

Legislation has done all it can. You cannot legislate against an undercurrent: it has only been swollen by moves to make "hate speech" a matter for the police. We gays are anyway confident enough to disclaim the statutory whimper of "protected characteristics". And I'm moving to the view that the categorisation of sexual preferences cannot reflect — and may do violence to — human sexuality.

Experience suggests we humans do not fit, or stay, in pigeon-holes. Bisexuality is vastly under-discussed; people, their preferences, whims and urges, change during their lives.

We could more usefully look at what people do, rather than what they "are" or call themselves. We should start with a bonfire of the tags. In a century's time our successors will laugh at our LGBT etc, as we laugh at the medieval division of body and mind into four "humours": blood, yellow bile, black bile and phlegm.

> One example is worth a thousand school lectures

I said that the difficult time, particularly for boys, is the teenage years. And I'm very sure (remembering my own fascination with figures like Noël Coward, Oscar Wilde and TE Lawrence) that role models are important. Today, we have many such from among our illuminati, but popular heroes, particularly in sport and pop music, could do so much more. One example is worth a thousand school lectures. So I salute Streeting.

On just one point, his online abusers are absolutely right: his example matters.

POLITICS NEWSLETTER
For the best analysis and commentary from Westminster
thetimes.com/newsletters

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Tech Summit

The Age of the AI Agent, Who's Really in Control?
Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Speakers include

Aidan Gomez
Co-founder & CEO at Cohere

Dr. Ross Harper
Co-Founder & CEO at Limbic

Judith Dada
Co-CEO, Langdock and Senior Partner at Visionaries

Go to thetimes.com/events or use the QR code to book now

Headline Sponsor
Adobe

Supporting Sponsor
Raspberry Pi

Comment

King should take pride in our Caribbean legacy

Charles must emphasise Britain's positive contribution to the region instead of apologising

Tony Sewell

Buckingham Palace has confirmed that the King and Queen will undertake an autumn royal tour, including visits to the Bahamas and Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda. But let's not get too jealous as, stuck at home, we turn up our central heating.

Once, when royalty arrived in a grateful colony that country would be shut down for the day and every street and alley would be clean. Schoolchildren would be given their Union Jacks and told to smile. Half-naked black women would dance in front of a severe-looking white entourage and later the military band would play an off-key version of *God Save the Queen*. But during this visit, the King will find himself subject to mass indifference at home and the derision of Caribbean activists calling for Britain to pay the bill for enslaving their ancestors.

More recent royal visits to the region have had Charles as supplicant, begging his hosts for forgiveness for past atrocities. This approach does not play well at home or abroad. The King and the Foreign Office need to redefine these visits — no more apologising (directly or indirectly). Charles needs to assert Britain's positive legacy in the region.

My sense is that he and his handlers are uncertain what that is. What will become clear from these visits is that civil servants don't understand the region and are too woke to assert some British pride.

One member of the royal family who has had some success in these ventures has been Prince Harry. In November 2016, he undertook a high-profile tour of the Caribbean on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II to mark the anniversary of independence for several nations, including Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana. Observers at the time remarked on his approachable and informal style, which was widely seen as a major factor in his ability to connect with diverse crowds and local leaders

> His visit will kickstart a debate about cutting ties with the UK

during the two-week trip. Briefly, at least, the royals were not seen as merely an ATM for slavery activists.

Charles will face two kinds of opposition. Bahamas and Antigua and Barbuda are politically independent countries but not republics, so Charles remains their head of state. The King has a governor general in each of these countries who acts as his representative. There is no protesting on the streets about the monarchy but both countries are thinking about referendums on their future constitutional status. The appearance of Charles will kickstart the debate about cutting ties with the mother country.

Charles needs to be bolder with these countries and make it clear that if they want to leave us then Britain holds no grudge. However, we don't want to be framed as some kind of post-colonial power that is holding them down. In his after-dinner speech in Antigua he needs to highlight their national hero, the cricketer Sir Viv Richards. Remind Antiguans that our relationship is a complex one, where the legacy has helped Antigua in building such a great sporting leader.

Richards has always spoken with immense affection and loyalty about his time at Somerset County Cricket Club, where he played from 1974 to 1986. For him, Somerset was not just another county; it was a home away from home where he felt truly accepted and valued. Reflecting on his return to Taunton for special events and tributes, Richards has often stated that he considers his time there as the foundation of his professional life in England.

In his speech, Charles should stop being defensive and play a few Richards-style cover drives. This is not to disrespect the great people of Antigua but for once he could talk about how Britain was crucial in shaping Caribbean culture.

The King could refer to how he read the works of Rex Nettleford, CLR James, Derek Walcott and Wilson Harris. They all speak to the idea that the Caribbean is a mixture of the African rhythm and European melody. The process of creolisation recovered many aspects of African identity but what made it successful was the ability to produce a new version of culturally British people, set adrift in the Caribbean Sea.

The same tone should be shared with Guyana, whose president, surprisingly, has invited Charles to visit on the same tour. I say surprising because in September 2023 Richard Madeley on *Good Morning Britain* challenged President Irfaan Ali to stop banging on about reparations when Guyana was experiencing tremendous economic growth through its newly found oil reserves.

Ali maintained that reparations were about historical justice, a "crime against humanity" and the structural wealth extracted from the region that helped build modern British institutions. Unlike the others, Guyana is already a republic — so why, three years on, would you want to bring back the devil to your country? Ali's invitation to the King is rooted in strategic international diplomacy rather than domestic constitutional transition. He knows Charles is an egghead on the environment, having spent decades advocating for conservation and sustainable development.

Ali has made Guyana's low-carbon development strategy a cornerstone of his administration. The visit provides a platform to highlight Guyana's role as a "global steward" of its rainforests. By engaging with the King, Ali effectively draws his administration's climate agenda to international attention, validating Guyana's environmental policies. Ali can simply look good. A smart strategy, but it proves that, republic or not, when it comes to getting recognition on the world stage, you still need the royal seal of approval.

Lord Sewell of Sanderstead is a Conservative peer

THUNDERER

New leadership can help UN rediscover moral conscience

Andrew Mitchell

The failure of the League of Nations led directly to the Second World War and after 1945, with British diplomats playing a leading role, the United Nations was born, determined that "never again" should mean precisely that.

Let there be no doubt: we need the UN. But it has never fully moved on from the postwar settlement and, as time has passed, it has increasingly come to be seen as irrelevant. Yet many of its agencies continue to perform essential work, saving lives and painstakingly trying to make the world a better place. Its security council, however, remains unreformed and unrepresentative.

At a time when we desperately need an effective international system capable of addressing the great challenges of our age, from migration and pandemics to climate change, the world is increasingly in the hands of narrow nationalists impatient with the international system and sceptical of its institutions. The process to select a new secretary-general to succeed António Guterres is warming up. Step forward Mia Mottley, prime minister of Barbados and architect of the Bridgetown Initiative, which represents the most serious attempt in recent years to rethink how international finance can respond to the needs of developing and vulnerable nations, an issue the UN confronts every day.

Mottley's government has received strong and popular endorsement from the people of Barbados. She has demonstrated an ability to build alliances around difficult and sometimes unexpected issues, a crucial skill for a secretary-general who must navigate the conflicting interests of the 193 members. She is a consummate diplomat.

Above all, Mottley has successfully engaged with leaders and institutions across the developed world while retaining credibility among the smaller and less represented countries of the UN. She is a highly respected bridge between the global south and the developed world. She is also an exceptional communicator. We have seen this at the UN general assembly and at successive COP summits. Her authority, clarity and moral persuasiveness mark her out in an election where, by tradition, the next secretary-general will come from her part of the world.

If the international community genuinely wants change, renewed authority and a stronger moral conscience, it needs a candidate capable of commanding respect across the world. Mottley is charismatic, experienced and authoritative. She has the political skill, administrative experience, international credibility and moral standing to give the UN the leadership it requires.

Sir Andrew Mitchell MP is a former UN peacekeeper and minister for development

Will Pavia Notebook

Bureaucracy at the beach ensures best behaviour

Whatever you think about the United States right now, you must allow that they do summer well. They have sunshine, careworn amusement parks, beaches up to their armpits. We are in Rhode Island on a state-run beach that has the startling dimensions of an American superstore car park: accommodating and stretching away as far as the eye can see. Faint on the Atlantic horizon stand the turbines of the nearly completed wind farm that has been caught in the president's remorseless vendetta against wind energy.

Every couple of hours a man's voice sounds over the Tannoy, his tone as stern as a PoW camp commandant.

"The time is now 4.30," he will say. "That means that in exactly one hour the bathrooms will be locked and closed for the evening. Please plan your time accordingly, for absolutely no exceptions will be made."

These announcements can be heard a mile inland. If your house is anywhere near the shore, you hear him telling you about the lavatories and the need to carry out all your trash. We spend a lot of time on the beach speculating about his identity. He is presumably very high up in beach management, possibly the top guy. He addresses us as "beach patrons", which makes it sound as if we are customers, but you always feel more like a worker on a collective farm.

I think of America as an enthusiastic experiment in free capitalism, a place where those young Democratic Socialists have no hope. And perhaps it is — except when you have to call the phone company, or an American bank, which have bureaucracies that would put the Soviets to shame. Or in New York City, when you are direct messaging the mayor on social media, asking him to fill a pothole. Or on the beach.

Pincer movement

My sister-in-law, an accomplished swimmer, joins an early morning swim from a nearby town beach. They carve a mile out to sea to a green buoy, flanked by kayakers and people on stand-up paddle boards. These events are chronicled by Fred Bartlett, a legendary Rhode Island swimmer. "Few strands of weed in the water," he writes. "Cooler water temps but NOT cold. No CLs reported." What are CLs, we wonder, for several days between beach announcements. Then, one afternoon, my brother-in-law reports a strange tickling sensation in his trunks. A mass of seaweed has collected in one pocket. It is crawling with black bugs and a pale, crab-like creature. They are crustacean isopods and crab larvae, which multiply in warming seas and pinch swimmers' crevices.

These are the CLs that Fred writes about. Surely, when future historians study the climate of the 21st century, they will look to blogs like Fred's for the first accounts of a changing world from the people who get bits of it stuck in their trunks.

Ball control

Five minutes up the road there's a dinky amusement park and arcade with pinball machines, those claw games where you might win a fluffy toy and some elderly video games. Some still work. The children get $3 each. They used to blow this allowance on the car-racing games. Now they spend it all at a wooden machine where, for a quarter, a bouncy ball drops through a tilting baseball field. You swing a batter, who hits it into a hole. You then get the bouncy ball.

The children return to our rental house each carrying 12 bouncy balls of different shades. They go upstairs and for about an hour there is furious trading, using a valuation system I don't fully understand. "We are not taking 36 bouncy balls with us," I tell my three children, as stern as the beach lord. The older two explain, apologetically, to the smallest that they are getting rid of four of his bouncy balls. "We have an orange one already," they say. "And these other three are just trash."

They come back to me, after these ruthless cuts, with a progress report. They are now down to 32. It's going very well.

Buy prints or signed copies of Times cartoons from our Print Gallery at timescartoons.com or call 0800 912 7136

Compassion alone won't cure Britain's ills

There are both sensible hopes and inevitable danger in taking a sterner approach to welfare, crime and immigration

Libby Purves

@LIB_THINKS

For those who loved his roughneck eloquence of outrage and insult, there is additional regret at Rod Liddle dying just before last week's Middlesbrough tragedies and disturbances. His home neighbourhood was the scene of the crash that killed two policemen and five other young men, a car-burning "memorial" to a perpetrator, a stabbing, a house rammed, a woman and child killed by fire.

Cleveland police begged for help, afflicted with more criminality than anywhere outside central London. As a rare member of the commentariat living close to all this and not the metropolitan south, Liddle would have been unsparing.

He'd have not only called the perpetrators cretins, savages and toerags but decried "whining monkeys and lanyard-wankpuffins" in office. Christian though he was, he'd deride Anna Turley MP, whose flower-bearing tribute lacked even a hint of distinction between the deaths of young constables doing their job and thugs on the wrong side of the road and, habitually, of the law.

Some would have winced and decried his language, but many would feel pure relief. When a part of our country has been shruggingly neglected, left to the mercy of economic change, uglified and impoverished and its decent people allowed to be overrun by drug gangs and youth without hope, harsh things need to be said. Any citizen who is not angry for Middlesbrough today is not concentrating.

But every day attitudes harden, seeing that myopic social liberalism has a case to answer. Our untried prime minister stands at a point when a harder-edged new severity could be possible, indeed popular, all the way from migration to policing and welfare. Any party promising sternness would meet echoes, but unfortunately it's more likely to be promised by those who would not only deploy racism, prejudice and bad law but probably not even be efficient. A renewed orderly, happy and hopeful Britain does not seem likely to spring from such soil as Tice, Yusuf, Lowe, Farage or Robinson, any more than from the greenery-yallery romantasy of Zack Polanski.

A stiffening recovery of morale would, like all physiotherapy, involve pain. Hard cases cleverly presented would make us flinch daily. Take the most obvious of potential severities: Danish-style border controls, insistence on integration in language and culture, brisk deportations. Poignant stories of tearful individuals would afflict the guilty-comfortable mass.

As for getting severe towards the existing population, in any welfare crackdown the hard steel ploughshare of reform would throw up even more hard-luck stories. Not least from young "Neets", too readily allowed to dissociate the idea of incoming money from the need to spend five days a week doing things that might bore them. Admittedly,

> In any culture, we need to believe the law might fall on us hard

many are genuine victims of Reeves budgets and new employment law, which made hiring newcomers significantly more expensive. But some genuinely believe there's a right not to bother.

Unfair to name one silly individual, but there's a glorious LBC interview with a Pip claimant for some condition which didn't seem to affect being articulate, confident and healthy. She explained that she had worked in Boots awhile, but it "wasn't accessible for me". Boots would, she admitted with lordly condescension, be all right "for some people". One longed to shout: "Come on, it's where Glenda Jackson started."

Well, Twitter mocked the poor sap — but she serves as an example of some, not all young, who need a reality check, not only to save the economy but because it is cruel to let able-bodied people be rendered useless. If anything's going to wreck your mental health, it's that. Yet any imaginable severity, "workfare" or certified menial volunteering would cause outrage and misery stories for media and political opponents.

Move on to the most serious of all: criminality. At any age, in any class or culture, we need to believe the law might fall on us hard whether for serial shoplifting, vandalism, violence, disorder or fraud. That it will find us, make life uncomfortable, embarrassing. We should also believe that it's safe for fellow citizens to dob us in and unsafe to plead: "It wasn't me, it was the system, my past, my unusual brain." That law wouldn't care, just calmly punish and demand restoration. Again, imagine the pathos of hard cases.

We'd feel it: compassion is an admirable instinct to pity poor, weak, suffering, damaged brethren. Good people also want to forgive the guilty, whatever demons drove them; to counsel and listen, not coldly condemn. Giving and forgiving both lie deep in Christian tradition: for centuries, convents and monasteries counted it a privilege to serve the humblest and pray for the sinner. In giving, Judaism demands "tzedakah", Islam "Sadaqah", even if forgiveness is rarer.

While formal charity continues, modern liberalism assumes not personal goodness but a compassionate state. Elected politicians fear looking like an on-yer-bike Tebbit or it's-your-fault Thatcher. So, gradually, we outsourced both almsgiving and compassion to the system — but then blame it, either for tolerating poverty or being conned out of Pip. Regarding crime, we cry that "something should be done" while paying insufficient tax to fund rehabilitative prisons, probation and a confident police force. On immigration, pleas for cultural respect and open borders come from people drifting between large London houses and rural second homes. But there are others who would readily echo any new, bracing, potentially dangerous creed of severity on welfare, crime, immigration.

If your life and neighbourhood is under threat, crowded and disorderly, and you daily see both exploited welfare and unpunished criminality, you feel the floor more unsteady than ever before and might reach for any handrail. If so, it had better be a solid, well-designed one and not bring down the whole damn wall.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Power of 'the blob' in teacher training

Sir, Michael Gove is right to criticise some lecturers ("Cambridge academic celebrates ignorance", Aug 28). After 40 years of teaching and being a headmaster I went to visit those state schools getting exceptional GCSE results with disadvantaged pupils. They all had excellent discipline, high expectations, strict routines, direct instruction from teachers standing at the front and happy pupils.

Most teacher training does not take place at the big and famous universities who can afford the luxury of appointing clever people who have never taught in a school. Smaller universities, like mine, appoint experienced teachers and we most certainly teach our students about the methods used in those schools which get wonderful GCSE progress scores. The qualification required to teach in state schools is called Qualified Teacher Status. Only universities with permission from the government are allowed to teach it. These courses are inspected by Ofsted and permission to teach QTS can be withdrawn. So there should be no reason for any poor teacher training in England.
Professor Barnaby Lenon
Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Buckingham

Sir, Michael Gove is right in his concerns about teacher-training colleges and their ideology. In principle "the blob" are driven by a mindset which inculcates victimhood into students, undermines their self-confidence and self-belief, and deprives them of skills to help them get on. This is in contrast to the values of the Michaela Community School and Mossbourne Academies. Their mission is to develop self-control and agency in their students, the most important qualities needed to get on. It's no wonder that, in deprived areas, these schools are over-subscribed.
Sian Flynn
Clifton, Bristol

Carnival caution

Sir, The Notting Hill Carnival may be expensive but how is it dangerous? (letter, Aug 29). True, the noise is extreme, and not being able to get in and out of your house is massively inconvenient but "dangerous"? This looks like a case of a valid criticism merging with racism. They are sometimes hard to separate.
Stephanie Calman
London SE21

Corrections and clarifications

ipso. Regulated *The Times* takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ("IPSO") rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces. Requests for corrections or clarifications should be sent by email to feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to Feedback, The Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Effects of development on local communities

Sir, Chris Lamb (letter, Aug 28) makes a strong point in seeking to protect democracy from plans by Andy Burnham to overrule local planning authorities. However, having observed planning committees in Wales over many years, there is a long way to go before planning decisions deserve the description "'democratic" or as "informed by community objections". Developers too often rely on local planning authorities choosing to carry out as limited a community consultation as possible, while decisions are increasingly delegated to officers.
Gareth Wardell
Former MP; Llanelli, Carmarthenshire

Sir, In our small village in the far corner of North Yorkshire, two farmers have been granted permission to develop housing, one on a greenfield, one on a redundant farmyard and transport depot. Neither has made any progress, and one has even applied to double the original application numbers. They are effectively sitting on land banks while we are told the UK is desperate for housing. Our village is certainly in need of housing. A healthy community needs new young families, our sports clubs need players, the churches parishioners, the shop customers, our school pupils, our pub needed customers too, but sadly it is too late and it stands empty and deteriorating. Giving planning permissions without obligation to complete serves no purpose. If this is the case across the UK we will never see building targets achieved.
Frank Walsh
Barton, N Yorks

Sir, Tim Sargeant (letter, Aug 28) complains that developers encounter strong opposition, even when schemes provide affordable housing, green space and community benefits. In the same edition you feature a development of 21 houses in the Cambridgeshire village of Great Shelford ("How we built 21 affordable almshouses", Bricks and Mortar, Aug 28). It represents contemporary architecture at its best and local support is described as "overwhelming". Perhaps developers, politicians and council officials concerned about nimbys could visit it.
Fletcher Robinson
Lovington, Somerset

Sir, Tim Sargeant writes about the refusal by Uttlesford district council's planning committee of the proposal to build 480 new homes near Stansted. This proposal would lead to building on green fields between us and our neighbouring village, Birchanger, effectively merging them. There are few plans for amenities, so our surgery would be overwhelmed, and the development would be close to the already heavily congested main road.
Mandy McIlwaine
Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

Sir, We nimbys failed to prevent the population of Stansted Mountfitchet and Birchanger from growing by 47 per cent between 2001 and 2021, but we have to keep trying.
Ken McDonald
Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

Sir, Two of City & County's housing applications near Stansted "would provide nearly 500 new homes, half of them affordable". Logically, however, this means that half of them are not affordable.
Nigel Louth
Abridge, Essex

Early release fears

Sir, We are a group of rugby coaches who knew Luke O'Connor closely during his final years at school ("Days' notice for victims and families before early releases", Aug 29). To us, Luke was not just a talented player but a young man of exceptional character — steady, thoughtful, kind and quietly determined. He embodied the values rugby is meant to instil, together with responsibility for actions, courage, and care for others. His death was a devastating blow to his family and those who taught and supported him.

What troubles us most is the alarming message now being sent by the decision to release the man responsible for his death after only a few years. For those of us who saw Luke grow from a boy into a young adult of real promise, this feels like a profound injustice. It diminishes the value of a life lived with decency and purpose. It tells families across the country that even the most serious actions will lead to consequences so trivial that they barely acknowledge what has occurred, never mind the increasingly forlorn hope that justice might be served. As a group we have spent decades coaching young people, helping them navigate adversity and learn the importance of accountability. Yet we now find ourselves in a country where accountability seems increasingly optional. Luke deserved better — a country where the political leadership takes responsibility for both the short and long-term consequences of the power enacted.
Chris Odell, **Chris Shacklady**, **John Lowe**, **Chris Mann**, **Mark Browne**, **Jeremy Woods**, **Ed Richardson**, **Tim Simmons**
Rugby coaches, Bedford

Headlight dazzle

Sir, Headlight dazzle is an aggressive and frightening factor for those obliged to drive after dark ("Dazzling headlights no longer logged as a factor after crashes", Aug 29). It is a wholly unnecessary phenomenon which indicates the lack of a guiding intelligence in a motor industry which sees road use as a selfish marketing opportunity for overly endowed vehicles rather than as a shared communal activity.

Your report that the critical recording of the dazzle factor in accidents has been removed from police recording and hence from public health evaluation of the problem suggests the motor industry is running scared of the litigatory consequences of the growing evidence of lethality of the issue.

In the absence of other convincing explanations, we may assume that considerable pressure has been put on ministers and civil servants to instruct the serious downgrading of critical information collection by the police officers who are confronted with the often gruesome task of attending, understanding and mitigating morbid and fatal road traffic accidents at night.
David Rew
Consultant general surgeon, Southampton

Sir, LED car headlights are dangerous but the way to deal with them is to wear anti-glare glasses when driving at night.
Elisabeth Kahn
Barnet, N London

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

LOST BETWEEN DAINTRY AND BRICKLESEY

FROM THE TIMES AUGUST 31, 1926

When the British Broadcasting Company decided that the name of their new station should be pronounced as it was spelled, Daventry, they shocked a great many lovers of old ways. Here was a body, with a power over English speech much greater than that of stage or pulpit, setting a bad example. No matter what the spelling, the sound was "Daintry". It always had been "Daintry".

A little later Mr Ernest Law returned to the charge in defence of a famous old Cotswold town. He protested in our columns against the "modern atrocity" of the name Cirencester, which he held to have been forced upon the people of that town by etymologists. Let them revert to "the old, correct spelling", which, he declared, was "Ciceter". And then a Cirencester man, Mr Vaisey, wrote to say that "Ciceter" was not the old, correct spelling; that it was not even a true literal rendering of any local pronunciation. Others, with memories of Cirencester as long as Mr Vaisey's, might bear witness that forty years ago the name was pronounced as Sizziter and (more rarely) as Sissister. And how long, another might ask, has Daventry been called "Daintry"? In Domesday Book it is spelled Daventrie.

The more we look into the differences between the spelling and the pronunciation of English names of place and of family, the more does it look as if, indeed, we spelled them Cholmondeley and pronounced them Marjoribanks. Pronunciation of English names seems sometimes to flout spelling and sometimes to follow it slavishly. In the names of London, of Pontefract, of Derby, it disregards the written letters; and any attempt to make the spelling fit the pronunciation would be to build a house on the sand.

In these days, when every one reads and writes, the pronunciation of names tends more and more to follow the written letter. Ask at a railway booking-office for a ticket to "Sizziter" and you will probably be given a ticket to Chichester. Inquire, in Essex, the way to "Brittlesey" or (more knowing still) to "Bricklesey" and even a street-boy or a rustic will correct you to the politer Brightlingsea. As time goes on, places and even families must expect to have the pronunciation of their names settled by the book.

THETIMES.COM/ARCHIVE

Lord's priorities

Sir, The past 18 months have seen the MCC committee consumed with the issue of gender diversity. The low percentage of female members is, the membership is advised, both a commercial threat and a moral issue, despite the fact that women have had equal access to MCC membership since 1998. Meanwhile, the Lord's cricket pitch deteriorates ("Drop-in pitches a cure for poor Lord's surface", Aug 27). After the New Zealand Test in June, a match which lasted just two full days, the pitch was rated by the ICC as "unsatisfactory". The impact is reduced revenue due to shorter matches, the allocation of the World Test Championship final to the Oval, and loss of prestige for the home of cricket. The solution will require a new playing surface with the loss of matches and revenue over years. Like so many of our national institutions — education, defence, the police — the MCC should focus on its core purpose: cricket, not the politics of diversity.
Sir James Bucknall
Everley, Dorset

Height of indignity

Sir, Tom Kershaw ("Why can't short players stand tall in tennis grand-slams any more?", Aug 28) touches on a much bigger issue — heightism in sport. Across the board, shorter players struggle to compete with the tall, particularly in professional sports. Obvious examples include rugby, rowing, swimming and of course basketball, where only the tall can compete. But there are answers. In the case of tennis, removing the second serve and softening racket tensions would encourage finesse. Sports often change their rules to improve safety or entertainment, so why not help shorter players reach new heights?
Chris Rhodes
Partridge Green, W Sussex

Tribute to Dolly

Sir, When our daughter Hannah Walton and her two friends, Florence Ward and Georgie Leech, became the youngest female trio to row across the Atlantic, in the 2020 Talisker Challenge, they named their boat Dolly Parton (obituary, Aug 26). The boat mirrored the real Dolly Parton's kindness and strength, and was never constrained by a 9-5 schedule. It has done at least two more Atlantic crossings, always with all-female crews, who will always love her.
Dr Gail Walton
Risley, Derbyshire

Little surprises

Sir, Professor Ogilvie-Smith's use of the milliHelen (letter, Aug 29) reminded me of when my friends and I proposed this and a number of similar units as students. My contribution was the unit of surprise — the Boo. This, of course, leads to the smallest such value, the picoBoo.
Phil Ridgway
Woodbridge, Suffolk

Legal beagles

Sir, After reading your article ("Underdog Dogue bites back, claiming Vogue is the copycat", Aug 29), we were pleased to learn that Dogue now has a lawyer. My daughter wanted to know if they were working pro bono.
Peter Ransom
Southampton

Daily Universal Register

US: Meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors, North Carolina.
UK: Late-summer bank holiday.

Nature notes

In late summer worker wasps can be seen drinking in large numbers from ponds, puddles and bird baths, especially on hot days. They ferry the water back to the nests where it is regurgitated and fanned with their wings to keep the eggs and larvae from overheating. At this time of year they will also forage for carrion: they cannot digest protein themselves but chew meat into balls, take it back to the nest and feed it to the larvae, which secrete a sugary liquid they drink in return. When the larvae have all pupated, the workers lose this food source which is why they start looking for sugary drinks and jam and become a nuisance at picnics. MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today

Queen Rania of Jordan, *pictured,* women's rights activist and board member, UN Foundation, 56; **Mohammed bin Salman**, crown prince and prime minister of Saudi Arabia, 41; **Martin Bell**, Unicef UK ambassador, BBC foreign affairs correspondent (1994-96), 88; **Nick Bitel**, chief executive, London Marathon Group, chairman, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, 67; **Serge Blanco**, rugby union player, France (1980-91), 68; **Dick Boer**, deputy chairman, Shell, 69; **Eric Born**, chief executive, Grafton Group, 56; **Todd Carty**, actor, *EastEnders* (1990-2003, 2008), 63; **Laura Collett**, two-time Olympic gold medallist (2020, 2024, team eventing), 37; **Tina Cook**, Olympic silver medallist (2012, three-day eventing), 56; **Most Rev and Right Hon Stephen Cottrell**, Archbishop of York, 68; **Roger Dean**, artist, album covers for the band Yes, 82; **Michel Demaré**, chairman, AstraZeneca, 70; **Dame Liz Forgan**, chairwoman, Aurora Orchestra, 82; **Debbie Gibson**, singer-songwriter, *Foolish Beat* (1988), 56; **Jason Fox**, former Royal Marine commando and UK Special Forces soldier, *Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins* (since 2019), 50; **Richard Gere**, actor, *Pretty Woman* (1990), 77; **Susan Gritton**, soprano, 61; **Daniel Harding**, conductor, Orchestre de Paris (2016-19), 51; **Pádraig Harrington**, winner, the Open (2007, 2008), 55; **Sir Clive Lloyd**, cricketer, captain, West Indies (1974-85), 82; **Dame Julie Maxton**, executive director, Royal Society, 71; **The Honourable Mr Justice McKendrick**, 50; **Ian Meakins**, chairman, Compass Group (food and support services), Unilever (consumer goods), 70; **Sir Ivan "Van" Morrison**, singer-songwriter, *Brown Eyed Girl* (1967), 81; **Ed Moses**, two-time Olympic gold medallist, 400m hurdles, 71; **Bryan Organ**, portrait painter of the royal family, 91; **Dwayne Peel**, rugby union player, Wales (2001-11), 45; **Itzhak Perlman**, violinist and conductor, 81; **Glenn Tilbrook**, singer, Squeeze, *Up the Junction* (1979), 69; **Ryan Wigglesworth**, chief conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, 47.

On this day

In **1959** Harold Macmillan and President Eisenhower gave a joint live TV broadcast from No 10, after discussing world peace, poverty and Soviet encroachment in Europe.

The last word

"He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander." Aristotle, quoted in *Politics* by Benjamin Jowett (1885)

New Compère, Same Show

Andy Burnham billed himself as a vote-winning alternative to Sir Keir Starmer but the prime minister's performance so far suggests that he, too, evades hard decisions

Summertime, and the living has been easy for Andrew Burnham. No prime minister in recent history has enjoyed such a gentle introduction to office. Six weeks after stepping into No 10 over the twitching corpse of Sir Keir Starmer's premiership, Mr Burnham has yet to trouble the scorer in solid announcements on big areas of policy.

Mr Burnham's commitments involving money have so far been about spending it: ending VAT on household energy bills, eradicating rough sleeping, capping bus fares to £2 and a business rate cut for pubs. The hard choices involving big money remain in the in-tray.

Now the Labour leader's happy summer is fading into autumn. Recess ends today and MPs are flocking back to Westminster. On Wednesday, Mr Burnham faces his first joust with Kemi Badenoch, the Conservative leader, at the dispatch box. The promises that propelled him into No 10 — eerily similar to the general election pitch of the man he supplanted — will be tested in a more challenging forum.

Even now, though, it is clear that Mr Burnham will be found wanting on radical reform. His chancellor, John Healey, admitted as much on Friday, calling the new regime a "continuity" of the Starmer operation. Already, in areas beloved of the Labour faithful, such as his proposed caps on political donations and the nationalisation of utilities, the prime minister has beaten retreats. Mr Burnham may come good on local government devolution, a passion of his, but in other important areas he appears to have inherited his predecessor's vice of ducking hard decisions.

Procrastination born of political calculation is this government's speciality. Mr Burnham is no different. Yet again, he uses consultations and reviews as excuses to delay vital reforms to the welfare state and the armed forces.

If there is one area of public expenditure requiring decisive action, it is social security. The dominating feature of the political landscape in Britain since the spending spree of the pandemic is national debt. At almost £3 trillion, it is equivalent to 94 per cent of gross domestic product and costs more than £100 billion a year in interest to service. This mountainous liability must be tackled and that means big cuts to the welfare budget, now running at £334 billion a year, a quarter of government spending and 11 per cent of GDP. Sir Keir and his chancellor, Rachel Reeves, recognised this and made a half-hearted attempt to impose cuts before being slapped down by Labour backbenchers. Mr Burnham is no fool. He knows that spiralling working-age health benefits and state pension increases guaranteed by the triple lock are unsustainable. But instead of making a start by announcing changes in his first budget on October 28, he has kicked the can down the road with the same flimsy alibi used by Sir Keir: a pair of interminable reviews on the future of particular welfare payments.

Clattering along the cobblestones beside welfare is defence. Mr Healey resigned as defence secretary over Sir Keir's failure to commit to spending 3 per cent of GDP on defence by 2030. But Mr Healey intends to dodge the same target himself on budget day. He is having problems finding £4.5 billion — a tenth of 1 per cent of total spending — over three years to fund the dangerously inadequate defence investment plan.

As usual, Labour dodges welfare reform. As usual, Labour haemorrhages public money on welfare while starving defence. And, as usual, it taxes. Because the one area in which Mr Burnham can be guaranteed to act swiftly this autumn is in levying more tax from the working middle-class.

In truth, Mr Burnham is a new compère for an old and recognisable show. A cheekier, more charming host he may be, but the acts remain just the same.

Putin's Propagandists

The agents of Kremlin disinformation must be subject to unrelenting sanctions

Russia's war against Ukraine is conducted daily and ruthlessly by drone and missile attacks against civilians. It is also pursued through an organised campaign of lying. The propaganda machine of Vladimir Putin's regime works ceaselessly to malign the government of Ukraine, its allies and the ideals of liberal democracy. We report today on a motley concatenation of fabulists and state-sycophants whose lives are dedicated to this ignoble task. Britain, like its allies, implements sanctions on many of them. But these cannot be too onerous, and must be continually reinforced.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, European governments acted in concert to crack down on Russian disinformation. In Britain, broadcasting licences are allocated by the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the independent regulator. Ofcom had been tolerant to the point of indulgence to the English-language broadcasting arm of Russian state propaganda, Russia Today (RT). But this organ's coverage of the invasion of Ukraine was enough to get its licence deservedly revoked in Britain and its presence banned in the European Union.

President Putin knows that Russian media outlets will never query, but only ventriloquise, his fraudulent assertions that Ukraine has no real history or identity. And from their influence, ranks of internet trolls take their lead by intruding into the most apparently neutral of western news discussions to spread Mr Putin's falsehoods.

It is wildly false that Kyiv organised persecution of Russian-speaking minorities in eastern Ukraine and shut down domestic critics. But these and other myths are a constant refrain on Russian television. Their uncritical conduits include such figures as Maryana Naumova, a former teenage champion bodybuilder, Margarita Simonyan, editor in chief of RT, and Dimitri Simes, a Russian-born pundit who operated as a conservative foreign-policy expert in the United States for years before returning to Moscow.

These personalities are paid vast sums by Russian standards, equivalent to hundreds of thousands of pounds, whereas median annual earnings barely reach into five figures. Their message will undoubtedly appear crude not only to western audiences but even to their colleagues. As long ago as 2014, when Russia illegally annexed Crimea, Sara Firth, a London-based reporter for RT, resigned from the station on the ground that its coverage of Ukraine was "the most shockingly obvious misinformation and it got to the point where I couldn't defend it anymore".

The decision for western governments is how to balance freedom of the press against freedom of Ukraine. And this is really no quandary at all.

Russian media outlets do not practise journalism in any recognisable sense. They spread deceit, incitement and xenophobia. In denying the integrity of Ukraine as an independent nation, they serve the same function as William Joyce, popularly known as Lord Haw-Haw, in his propaganda broadcasts from Germany during the Second World War. They are subject already to western sanctions but the principle should be applied collectively. So far as it is in the power of western governments, anyone implicated in Russia's propaganda campaign should be isolated, ostracised and stripped of their assets. The gallant people, government and armed forces of Ukraine will rightly expect nothing less.

True Brew

A fully homegrown English tea enhances the nation's culture

This scorching summer has brought wildfires, hosepipe bans and a chain of records, but not all consequences of warmer average temperatures are equally baneful. They include conditions in the south of England that allow, for the first time, the cultivation of a truly English tea. Banks Tea Estate, in East Sussex, is dedicated to producing a single blend that is entirely homegrown.

Should the enterprise prosper, it will not only reduce the environmental impact of shipping tea from traditional producers in China, India and Sri Lanka, but also emphasise the importance of tea in British culture.

The price — a 5g tin of Premium Black English Tea sells at £11 — marks it as a luxury rather than a staple, but the nation's appetite for tea has long encompassed both wings of the market. The first shipment of tea to Britain came from Assam, in northeastern India. Tea progressed from being a luxury item drunk (by men) in coffee houses to being a necessity for both sexes in the privacy of the home. And at least till the end of the following century, its import and association with indolent living were rued by politicians and pundits as somehow detracting from national wealth.

This was a mistake. Economists are widely agreed that import substitution (the production of domestic goods to replace ones from overseas) is almost always self-defeating. Imports of tea are in truth a gain to national wellbeing, not a cost.

But meeting demand for a specialised product is another matter. In his classic work *Tea: Its History and Mystery* (1878), the Victorian writer Samuel Day averred: "It is not, possibly, too great an assumption to assert that there must exist something about tea specially suitable to the English constitution and climate." A century and a half later, the literal truth of his speculation is being gratifyingly confirmed.

World

After six months of war, Iran is

With the ayatollah still absent and his regime on the march, Iranians tell **Fatemeh Jamalpour** peace is a distant dream

Crowds gathered in Tehran last month to mourn the ayatollah, who died in February. Gholian, top, was held at Evin prison, which Vida Rabbani depicted in paintings

The ayatollah was dead and suddenly the Islamic Republic was red. Red flags were flown, red roses were picked, and little Shahan, a cherubic five-year-old, stood with his grandparents among all the Iranians dressed in red — red for blood, red for martyrdom and red for revenge. Six months on it is still hard for Shahan's mother, Hadis, a hairdresser in the western province of Kermanshah, to understand how her son became part of the regime's defiant response to war, but the divisions across Iran are reflected in her family.

Hadis, 30, lived with Shahan and her husband, Vahid, who had been left paralysed after he was shot during the January protests. They both opposed the era of the ayatollahs but their parents supported the Islamic Republic. When the war began, Hadis said, the older generation were terrified. Shahan's grandparents took him at night to regime-organised rallies where he repeated chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel". The process of indoctrination had begun, Hadis said.

"At first, Shahan did not understand what was happening," she said. "But after a while my father put it into his head that America and Israel were our enemies, that they had no real power, and that Iran and the Revolutionary Guards were so strong they would destroy them. Believing that Iran was strong made him less afraid."

The family moved between Harsin, a small town in Kermanshah where Vahid's parents lived, and the city of Kermanshah, where Hadis's mother lived near an area containing military bases and missile launchers. Hadis tried to appear calm in front of Shahan but his questions kept coming. "When would the war end? Which side was stronger? Why had it begun? When would the internet return? Had Tehran been destroyed?" He asked whether it was America that had shot his father in the leg, although Vahid had been wounded during protests before the war.

Hadis initially welcomed the conflict, believing it might end the system that had injured her husband and extinguished other routes to political change, but her optimism soon faded. There had been no regime change and, although there was a new ayatollah, the same group that had run Iran before the war were still running it, and they appeared determined to foster hatred of Iran's enemies among a new generation. In March, an 11-year-old boy's death, reported to have been in an air strike while he was manning a security checkpoint with his father in Tehran drew attention to the recruitment of children into the regime's security apparatus. An Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps official had said that the organisation would enrol "volunteers" aged 12 and above. Hadis fears that fighting will resume and eventually involve her son.

"When I told him the war could start again, he answered with complete certainty, 'No. The war is over, it won't start again'." She asked how he knew.

"Because we can't hear the fighter jets anymore," he told her. "Israel has been destroyed."

Cry freedom

It was Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a British-Iranian detained by the Iranian regime, who taught Sepideh Gholian leather-working. The days were long in Evin prison, where they were both held along with Sepideh Kashani, an environmental activist.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe was released before the war broke out, but by the time the first shots were fired six months ago Gholian, 30, from Dezful, a city in southwest Iran, was once again being held at the pleasure of the Islamic Republic. In December, she was beaten and arrested after attending a memorial service for Khosrow Alikordi, a human rights lawyer who had represented her and whose death was considered suspicious. "They tortured us almost to death," she said, adding that she spent 70 days in solitary confinement.

During the protests in January and the crackdown that followed, Gholian was held in prison in Mashhad.

"I watched groups of female protesters being brought in," she said. "They had been shot, some had been raped and many were in terrible condition. The charges against them were absurd."

The prison walls were thick and the war seemed far away at first, but one night an explosion broke the silence. Women rushed towards the windows, Gholian said, and began shouting: "Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!" The cry spread to other wings.

It was "not necessarily about supporting the war", Gholian said. "We were suffocating. We are still suffocating."

After her release, she established a workshop hand-stitching leather bags with other former prisoners. "Even when there is no war you can be sent to prison simply for going about your daily life," she said. "It makes no difference. We are already dead in this land."

The regime's voice

There are the lies we tell ourselves, the lies we tell others, and the lies we are told. The lines between lies have long been blurred for Maryam, who works for the Iranian state media machine. On the day the war started, she travelled to work with her husband after dropping their eight-year-old daughter off at school. Maryam, an economic journalist for a state-run news agency in Tehran, told her husband about a dream she had had.

"I was in a bakery surrounded by all this bread, but there was nobody there," she said. Her husband replied: "There's probably going to be a war."

Maryam was having tea and biscuits with colleagues when she heard aircraft overhead. Their office was only a five-minute walk from the supreme leader's compound.

As explosions shook the building, smoke drifted into the courtyard. Maryam joined the crowds descending into the metro.

"It was packed," she said. "Some people were distressed, some were happy, some were angry and some were crying. People were swearing at each other. The division between supporters and opponents was obvious."

She took her daughter north while her husband stayed in Tehran for work.

Doctor will see you now, China tells health tourists
Page 24

Kremlin propaganda stars make a killing
Page 26

still standing

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL

Maryam said she opposed the Islamic Republic despite working for a state-run news agency. The regime has brutally suppressed free reporting and jailed its critics in the press. However, she also fiercely rejects foreign intervention in her country.

"They have made terrible mistakes, and many things have happened that should never have happened," she said. "But when the choice is between my country and a foreign power, I will always choose my country, rightly or wrongly."

She saw the 1979 revolution and the Iran-Iraq war as catastrophes and rejected the "fantasy" that another revolution or foreign attack would improve Iran. She could understand, though, why some families whose children had been killed during anti-regime protests might turn towards revenge. "If someone had killed my child, perhaps I would also want revenge at any cost."

Where is the ayatollah?

There is a story doing the rounds in Tehran that Yousef Pezeshkian, the president's son, recently asked him about the ayatollah's health.

His father, who is one of few people said to have seen the supreme leader in recent weeks, is said to have nearly slapped him and demanded: "Why are you asking such a question? What does it have to do with you?"

Pezeshkian had long demanded to meet Mojtaba Khamenei, the son and successor of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in Israeli air strike on February 28.

The attack left Mojtaba disfigured, and the Iranians believe Israel tried twice more to target him, in hospital and then in an ambulance. He has since gone deep underground, issuing occasional written statements, including one yesterday.

The secrecy, one analyst in Iran said, reflected a race to keep Mojtaba beyond the reach of Israel and the United States. Some within the regime appeared to be turning Mojtaba's disappearance from public view into a form of mystique, he added.

"I think some people in the Islamic Republic want to pursue the model of the Taliban's Mullah Omar, or even that of the Hidden Imam," he said, referring to the revered Shia figure believed to remain concealed from the world.

Nasim, 36, a bank employee who lives in the city of Karaj, said: "My only hope is that the Islamic Republic will come to an end.

"This is no place to live. I blame everyone — those who brought about the 1979 revolution, the Islamic Republic, the government, America, the people who remained silent for years and even myself — for continuing to endure it. I blame myself both for staying silent and for staying here."

The little pink suitcase

At the war's outset, Golboo told Abi they were leaving Tehran to spend a few days with Abi's grandparents in a smaller city. Abi, six, disappeared into her bedroom and returned pulling a small pink suitcase. She folded a few dresses, then packed coloured pencils, some paper and a stuffed animal.

When Abi was three, after her parents separated, she had developed a stutter that took months to overcome. Her mother feared the same would happen again.

"Every time she spoke, I listened twice," she said. "Once for what she was saying and once for what fear might be trying to take away."

Although casualty numbers are uncertain and often contested, there can be little doubt that the war has taken a brutal toll on Iranian children. Most notable was the strike that hit the Shajareh Tayyebeh primary school in the southern city of Minab on the first day of the war, killing at least 175 people, most of them children, according to Iranian officials.

One afternoon, Abi said they had made a mistake leaving. A few days later, Golboo found her repeatedly wiping her suitcase with a damp cloth. "What are you doing?" she asked.

"I'm cleaning it," Abi said. She kept wiping it. Then she said: "When I hear the explosions, I feel like dust falls on my suitcase." There was no dust.

"Some things leave no visible trace," Golboo said.

'Le Pen is bad but a vote for Mélenchon is madness'

France
Adam Sage Paris

The French Open centre court has witnessed some tense matches over the years, like Ivan Lendl's win against John McEnroe in 1984, Rafael Nadal's victory over Novak Djokovic in 2012 or Carlos Alcaraz's defeat of Jannik Sinner in 2025.

The French presidential election debate, held there on Thursday as tennis gave way to politics, was not quite so thrilling, but the tension was acute as seven leading candidates argued over economic policy at the annual conference of the Medef, the French employers' federation.

The National Rally candidate Marine Le Pen, 58, who is ahead in the polls, said she would reduce the county's deficit — €152.5 billion last year — with a plan to make savings of €125 billion. This would include a cut in France's contribution to the EU, curbs on immigration and the abolition of "useless" state agencies, notably environmental ones.

The hard-left France Unbowed champion Jean-Luc Mélenchon, 75, called for a planned economy, higher taxes on businesses and the rich and the cancellation of French debt held by the European Central Bank.

President Macron's former centre-right prime minister Édouard Philippe, 55, said: "His ideas would make me laugh if they weren't so dangerous." He is running neck and neck with Mélenchon, although both are far behind Le Pen.

A car sector businesswoman — who, like most of the people interviewed afterwards by The Times, declined to be named — was watching on in dismay.

"People around me are really scared of what is going to happen in this election," she said. "I think it's going to divide the country. Friends and family are going to fall out. We're going to have to avoid talking about politics together." The debate left her fearful that the two-round election next spring would end with a "nightmare scenario" of a run-off between Le Pen and Mélenchon, roughly the equivalent of a choice between Nigel Farage and Jeremy Corbyn in the UK.

"It would be a terrible situation to find ourselves in but if that was the choice, I think I'd have to vote Marine," she said. "Mélenchon would be worse."

Le Pen is running for the presidency for the fourth time. Her previous candidacies have ended up in failure with economics often exposed as her Achilles' heel. In a 2017 debate with President Macron, for instance, she floundered as he attacked her plan to pull France out of the eurozone. The plan has since been dropped and the Rally is now committed to keeping the euro.

Tony Leray, 23, who has a small consulting firm, said: "You can see that she has worked at her economic policies and she has become more professional." A corporate lawyer agreed. "Le Pen's got better on the economy, although she is still not very good."

Among the hundreds of businessmen and women who attended the debate, the Rally leader is scarcely popular. The broadly pro-European audience remained suspicious of her stance on the EU, which, although softer, is still tainted by Euroscepticism. Many also doubt her commitment to reforming a country burdened by some of the highest taxation and state spending in the developed world.

Marine Le Pen could be up against Jean-Luc Mélenchon next spring

Jordan Bardella, 30, the Rally chairman, seemed to want to move the party towards a pro-business agenda after Le Pen was sidelined by a corruption conviction last year, but she has largely rowed back on Bardella's plans after her sentence was reduced on appeal in July, clearing the way for her to stand in the presidential election.

During the debate she vaunted the merits of traditional French government interventionism. She said the state had an "essential role" and was central to the country's "economic identity".

Bardella has accused leftists of planning a campaign of civil disobedience if Le Pen becomes president.

"They are already seeking to undermine civil peace," Bardella said in a interview with BFM TV on the fringe of a farm show in Chalons-en-Champagne, eastern France.

A consultant denounced Le Pen's plan to reduce VAT on energy, notably petrol, as "pure demagoguery". He also said her promise to curb immigration was "ridiculous. The French economy cannot function without immigration. The immigrants who do all the hard work that no one else wants to do."

The French elite seems less hostile to Le Pen than it once was. She even drew applause from the audience on occasions during the three-hour debate. "Mélenchon is the absolute danger," said the corporate lawyer. The car sector business woman agreed. She noted that the Rally had been founded by Le Pen's father, Jean-Marie, a backer of Marshal Philippe Pétain, the wartime leader who collaborated with the Nazis, but she said: "Pétain was 1940. It was a long time ago. We need to move on."

French dread the back-to-work bleus

David Chazan Paris

To many French people, *les grandes vacances* means more than just a long summer holiday.

It is a sacrosanct season of leisure, a time when one is entitled to disconnect from the petty tyrannies of everyday life. Alarm clocks fall silent, lunch drifts into the afternoon, dinner begins late and lingers long into the night.

Talking about work is more or less taboo, but rosé before lunch is entirely permissible. A siesta or a snooze on the beach is not idleness but part of the holidaymaker's primary duty, *se ressourcer*, to unwind and recharge.

That is why *la rentrée*, the return home, can come as such a jolt. One week, the most pressing decision is whether to read before or after a swim. The next brings the early start, the crowded commute, the frantic drop at the school gates and the inbox brimming with urgent demands.

Far from rendering the French immune to the post-holiday blues, their generous leave may only make them feel more despondent on their return. Nearly three quarters report a slump in morale. For parents who must prepare children for the new school year, the proportion rises to 84 per cent, according to an OpinionWay survey for the Homair holiday company.

Le Parisien said last week: "Some may be happy to get back to work and see their colleagues again, but many are plunged into despair and count the days before the first weekend."

Chantal, 43, a mother of three who lives in Le Pecq, west of Paris, and works for a market research company, took a month's holiday in Provence. As *la rentrée* approached, she said, she grew increasingly anxious. In the final week, she broke an unwritten rule by checking her work emails.

"I felt overwhelmed by the prospect of being swamped with hundreds of emails on my first day back," she said. "The first couple of weeks of holiday were great. But by the end I was making lists of all the school stuff I needed to buy, working out how much money we would have left after the holiday, and worrying about work."

Le blues de la rentrée, the back-to-work blues, is a perennial source of discussion in France. Each year, French media return to the malaise and dispense advice on how to fend it off.

The idea of recharging one's batteries has been woven into France's devotion to the summer break since workers won two weeks of paid holiday in the 1930s.

France has more bank holidays than the UK and the French can accumulate extra leave in return for working longer than the statutory 35 hours a week.

Many still take three weeks or a month off in the summer. For them, the end of August is not merely the close of a holiday. It is the time when the clock starts ticking again until the next one.

Telescope 'kicks down door to the universe'

Nasa's first chief astronomer, Nancy Grace Roman, championed the idea that telescopes belonged above Earth's atmosphere, where they could explore beyond human frontiers and yield discoveries invisible from the ground (writes Jacqui Goddard).

Yesterday, a $4 billion observatory bearing her name embarked on a mission that will measure the fabric of the universe and the dark energy that powers it, unveil 100,000 distant worlds and billions of galaxies, and potentially rewrite astronomy textbooks.

Its field of view is 100 times that of its predecessors, the Hubble and James Webb space telescopes, whose work it will complement. It will survey the sky 1,000 times faster than Hubble, covering more in one month than the other could do in a century.

"It will be as if Hubble and James Webb peered through a keyhole at the universe, while Nancy Grace Roman will kick the door down," said Dr Nicky Fox, Nasa's associate administrator for science.

The Nasa spacecraft, described by Fox as the size of a school bus and the weight of a T-Rex, launched from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, at 7.26am ET, after 20 years in the making.

Its launch vehicle, a 27-engine SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, powered it off the planet with five million pounds of thrust, producing a fiery show in the post-dawn sky and ear-splitting, landscape-rattling sonic booms as its two reusable side-boosters returned to Earth after completing their task.

Jared Isaacman, the Nasa administrator, said that Roman was a "massive accomplishment".

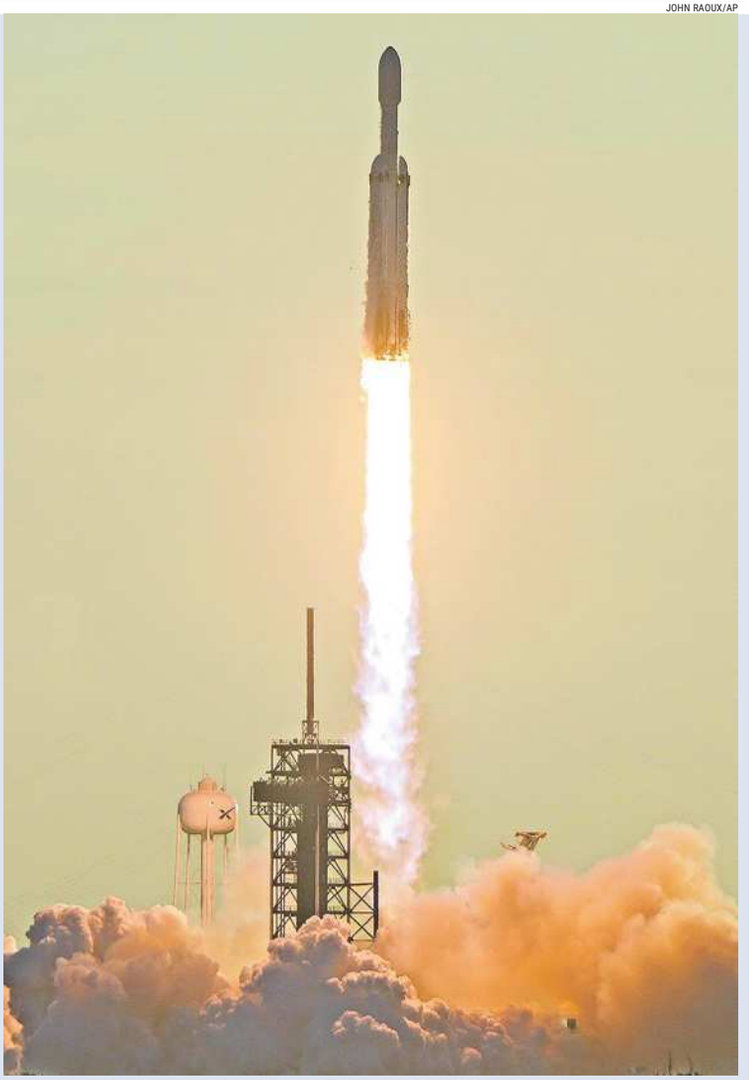
A surreal moment unfolded in the post-launch press conference as Isaacman jumped to his feet to take a call on his cell, answered with the words "Yes, Mr President," then put the call on speaker to share with the room.

"OK, I just want to thank everybody and congratulations..." President Trump told the Roman team.

Scientists believe Roman will overturn previously held theories about the expansion of the universe — potentially proving that it is not accelerating at the rate previously thought — and resolve mysteries of dark energy, the force that drives it.

It will unlock secrets of dark matter, the unseen substance that holds galaxies together, and produce the largest catalogue of cosmic objects in astronomical history, adding to a bounty of data that could one day answer enduring questions including: "Are we alone?"

JOHN RAOUX/AP



A rocket carrying the Nancy Grace Roman Telescope lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center

The doctor will see you now, China tells health tourists

China

Richard Spencer Kunming

If you had asked people living in prosperous western countries a decade ago about travelling to the global south for medical treatment, they would have looked at you blankly.

No longer. Creaking socialised medical systems, as well as globalisation and international accreditation systems for private hospitals, are driving British, European and other western patients to countries they would once have associated with poverty.

Alexandra Birsan, 45, had a bad experience at her local A&E department in Vancouver after her son had a swimming accident. So when she started getting stomach pains, Birsan looked abroad for a private check-up that would be cheaper than paying top Canadian dollar at home.

A recommendation from a friend, adding to her own expertise as a qualified medical engineer, led Birsan to China, the latest entrant in the crowded health tourism market, where low prices buy care at massively improving private and, in some cases, public hospitals. "The technology in my local hospital isn't actually very good," Birsan said as she was prepared for a gastroscopy at a hospital in Kunming, southwest China. "Also, it would have taken three to four months to wait for a proper schedule of examinations."

Having decided to go to China, Birsan was offered a sales package, which would be unusual for most considering healthcare options. The agency that organised the trip also booked her teenage son in for laser eye surgery and set up a week-long holiday in southern China.

Alexandra Birsan would have waited months in Canada

Medical tourism is not new. "Service enclaves" such as Dubai get patients from all over the Middle East, partly thanks to the high-quality, if expensive, hospitals designed for local and international elites. But now countries that have become more prosperous and are open to international assessments of their private healthcare sector are moving in on the market, especially middle-income countries that are competitive on price.

China, whose medical tourism sector still trails those of Malaysia and Thailand, is unusual because of the contrast between the historically egalitarian aims of its healthcare system and the reality that divides care in rural and urban areas. Even the ruling Communist Party admits that care in rural areas can fall short despite first-world standards in urban centres.

Some state hospitals — notably Peking Union, a venerable teaching hospital in the capital, and the leading hospitals in Shanghai, China's commercial hub — have private wings where resident foreigners have been treated for years. They are now advertising to non-residents with English-language websites and often employ English-speaking staff.

As with Malaysia, Chinese hospitals' biggest markets are heavily populated southern and southeastern nations, such as Bangladesh and Indonesia. But citizens of western countries now account for double-figure percentages of international client bases. To ensure that public hospitals continue to "serve the people", no more than 10 per cent of their clients may be from overseas and those clients must be self-funded.

Provincial hospitals involved in the industry typically have Joint Commission International status, a US-backed accreditation system. Medora, the agency that brought Birsan from Canada, has a base in Kunming and provides translators as part of its service.

Birsan paid C$400 (£212) for her gastroscopy and C$3,000 (£1,594) for her son's laser treatment — far less than they would have cost at home, she said.

China is also moving into more complex areas, including cutting-edge cancer treatments.

Medora is a recent offshoot of an advertising company in Guangzhou that found itself doing more business with private hospitals. In eight months, it has helped more than 500 foreign clients, about 70 of them westerners.

As Birsan handed herself over to nurses in Kunming, she had no regrets. Her son's laser surgery had gone well and she had full confidence in her treatment. "It beats Canadian hospitals," she said. And she gets a week's tour of Yunnan province into the bargain.

Iceland puts fishing first and rejects joining EU

Olivia Empson

Iceland has voted against reopening negotiations on joining the European Union in a setback to the country's long-running debate over membership.

In a yes-or-no referendum on Saturday, 118,040 people voted against joining (52.8 per cent), while 105,339 voted in support (47.2 per cent). The turnout was 82.6 per cent.

Kristrun Frostadottir, the Icelandic prime minister, said she was pleased with the referendum's high voter turnout and emphasised that the outcome would be respected.

"It is quite clear that this matter [EU negotiations talks] will not move forward under this government," she said.

Yet, she saw the 47 per cent "yes" vote as further proof that Icelanders wished for a continued strong relationship between her country and the bloc.

"We will continue to actively campaign for Iceland. I do not see this as a step backwards. If anything, [it is] a step forward, because this has confirmed the will of most parties in the Althingi [Icelandic parliament] and the public for continued co-operation with the European Union," she said.

Of six constituencies, only the two in central Reykjavik had a majority that voted in favour.

Search for survivors after ferry keels over

Anthee Carassava Athens

Up to eight people were confirmed dead and 17 others were still missing after a ferry carrying almost 270 people capsized off the coast of northern Cyprus.

The vessel was travelling from the port of Kyrenia, in the breakaway north of ethnically divided Cyprus, to the port of Tasucu, in Turkey's Mersin province.

Unal Ustel, prime minister of the self-styled Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, said a search and rescue operation was ongoing with "all our resources mobilised".

There were believed to be 259 passengers and eight crew on board.

Ustel added: "We are continuing the search and rescue efforts with the utmost care and closely following developments."

Murat Senkul, Kyrenia's mayor, said the ship belonged to the Filo Denizcilik ferry company. Video footage showed people wearing life-vests floating in the waters around the capsized vessel.

The overturned Filo Denizcilik ferry

Dirty rats of Wall Street find fame

From our correspondent

SUSIE COEN
NEW YORK

We're standing on a side street in lower Manhattan, peering through a metal gate into an empty lot. To the right, there is a stack of bin sacks. Armed with torches, we have been scanning the pile of rubbish for movement.

"You saw one, thank God," our tour guide squeals, her rat-shaped backpack flying as she jumps up and down with a mix of relief and excitement. It's not the usual response to seeing vermin scurry under a pile of black bin bags, but we've each paid $45 for a two and a half-hour walking tour dedicated to finding them, traipsing across the financial district and — until now — finding only droppings, burrows and carcasses in various states of decay.

Kaitlyn Needham and James Seir, both 30, from New Zealand, have booked this "garbage and rats" tour for their ten-day trip to New York, along with tickets to see Harry Styles, three Broadway shows and their elopement at City Hall.

"James loves rats," Needham says, noting that they don't see many back home in Auckland. "I'm purely on this tour for James."

Rats are synonymous with New York City. They arrived on boats from Europe in the 1700s and flourish in the metropolis's filth and grime. Successive administrations have tried to tackle the city's three million rats but none have been quite as committed as Eric Adams, who was mayor from 2022 to last year. He declared a "war on rats", appointed a "rat tsar" and announced a "trash revolution", which amounted to introducting wheelie bins.

Zohran Mamdani, his successor, has been less full-throttled — there is no "rat tsar" now — but he has pledged to fulfil a "trash containerisation plan" to install large lockable bins across the five boroughs by 2031. It seems that the city may already have made progress, however. Rat sightings fell 22 per cent in the first seven months of this year compared to the same period last year.

Our guide, Suzanne Reisman, 50, has also seen fewer rats. At the start of the tour she tried to manage our expectations. "There's good news and there's bad news," she said. "I just went to my usual spots and I didn't see any rats, which is good news from a public health perspective but bad news for this tour."

Suzanne Reisman, a tour guide, carrying her rat bag, which is called Patti Smith

If you want a rat tour of New York City, you want your guide to be Reisman. Wearing a pair of brown rat ears over two bunches of brown hair, she has a sort of unbridled joy and excitement about rodents.

She wears Patti Smith — a grey rat adorned with leather studded cuffs on each leg, a choker and a nose ring, which looks like cross between a punk and a BDSM rat. She bought Patti from a website that sells clubbing attire. She also has a rat stud in her ear.

When Reisman made the somewhat niche career change from social services to rat tours, in April last year, her mother told her not to be disappointed if nobody came. More than 250 people have since booked her tour. "I wasn't really surprised," she says. "Everyone thinks of New York as having trash and rats everywhere and they want to learn more about it."

Reisman is one of several rat guides who have emerged as interest has ballooned. Kenny Bollwerk, known as Rat Daddy, gained a cult following of almost 340,000 users on TikTok by livestreaming his rat hunts. "Social media has made them kind of into pop stars," Reisman says.

We don't see many live rats on our tour, but we do see plenty of dead ones. We stand on a raised flowerbed on Wall Street and look at three carcasses. In another alley, stepping over more decomposing rats, we peer down a crack between buildings that Reisman says is usually a hot spot, although she fears the recent floods drowned the rats. This was the site of a famous rat attack in 1979, when a woman was swarmed and bitten by a pack but, nearly 50 years later, we see nothing as we shine our torches into the dark abyss.

After 4,000 steps, a history of sanitation covering 400 years, and one rat sighting between us, the tour ends. Reisman is sure the rat population will climb again if this winter is less mild and if the administration drags its feet on refuse reform. But even if New York miraculously stamps out its rat problem, she isn't worried about business. "If the city did eradicate rats? I go hard on garbage, because we're always going to have the garbage problem."

PARAMOUNT PICTURES/PA

Back in the fast lane Tom Cruise and Anne Hathaway are revving up for a Days of Thunder sequel to hit cinemas in 2028. Cruise will reprise his role as Cole Trickle, a racing driver, 38 years after the original

Sorry the hardest word for 'Michigan Mamdani' in antisemitism row

Max Kendix Lansing

At a half-empty event for Jewish Democrats in a convention centre in Lansing, Michigan, Abdul el-Sayed was trying to say sorry.

El-Sayed has become a focus of national attention as the US gears up for midterm elections in November, when Democrats hope to neuter President Trump by taking Congress.

For Democrats to take back the Senate, El-Sayed will need to win in Michigan. In a state that narrowly went for Trump in 2024, he is running on an unapologetically left-wing platform that has drawn comparisons to Zohran Mamdani, the mayor of New York.

In the month since El-Sayed won the nomination, however, his campaign has been mired in antisemitism allegations.

In March, a man rammed his truck into a synagogue in Michigan, injuring a security guard and killing himself. He was a naturalised citizen from Lebanon and had lost several family members in an Israeli airstrike the week before.

El-Sayed condemned the attack, adding that "hurt people hurt people" and "violence is a cycle".

Six months on, he had decided to apologise. "I was trampling the dignity that that fear and that pain should have been afforded," he told the Jewish Democratic Caucus. "If my statement caused pain, I'm sorry, that was not what I intended to do. Sometimes you can offer context for something, but not in the moment where people are feeling it acutely. I made a mistake."

For many, however, the damage had been done. Jeremy Moss, standing for the House of Representatives in Michigan, did not endorse El-Sayed. Dana Nessel, Michigan's attorney-general, boycotted the convention. Rabbi Asher Lopatin appeared at an event with El-Sayed's rival, who is also now backed by Brian Hermelin, head of the Jewish Federation of Detroit.

The other problem is El-Sayed's relationship with Hasan Piker, a left-wing commentator he invited twice to campaign with him. This month, Piker said on his stream: "If Jews in America keep putting this idea out there that they are singularly invested in Israel, eventually someone's going to come around and take action — not against the state of Israel, mind you, but against American Jews." El-Sayed said that Piker was not a representative of his campaign but did not disavow him.

In a gaggle of reporters in the convention centre, El-Sayed was clearly frustrated by the line of questioning. "I don't want to have a conversation about a Twitch streamer in California. That's just not a serious conversation."

Even his supporters, however, know the scandal will hurt him. Connie Jacobs, 70, an activist from the heavily Jewish Oak Park suburb of Detroit, said: "It is a problem with my friends." She is convinced, though, that El-Sayed can turn people around. "I really think that if they listen to what is being said, if people open their eyes and their minds, they'll feel a lot better."

ROMAN PILIPEY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Love at the front Ukrainian soldiers known by the callsigns Ice and Khomochka, who legally married a year ago, make their vows to each other at a traditional Mysteriya ceremony in woodland near Izium, about 30km from the front line

TIMES Travel *Partner*

EIGHT DAYS NOW FROM
£1,146
per person

SAVE 15%*
BOOK BY SEPTEMBER 1

Puglia and the South – Undiscovered Italy

October 2026 to March 2028

Alberobello, Italy

Enjoy rest and relaxation on the shores of the Adriatic, and take in the often-overlooked delights of Italy's sun-kissed southern 'high heel'.

Full of included highlights, this hugely enjoyable holiday in Puglia is based on the shores of the Adriatic and lifts the veil on a fascinating region of Southern Italy. Discover the stunning, ancient, whitewashed hill-town of Ostuni, Alberobello and its conical trulli houses, and visit the extraordinary caves at Matera, as well as Monopoli and Polignano a Mare on an optional excursion. A visit to Baroque gem Lecce – the Florence of the South – and the opportunity to discover Castellana's famous cave network, wine-producing Locorotondo and elegant Martina Franca, on an optional excursion, complete a wonderful stay.

Price includes

- Return flights to Bari
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach travel and transfers
- Seven nights' dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation at the four-star Hotel del Levante, Torre Canne
- Tour of Apulia, Lecce and Ostuni
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

CALL TODAY ON
0808 189 0413
thetimes.com/nh-pugliacm
QUOTE TIM

*Save 15% applies to select 2026 and 2027 tour bookings made by September 1, 2026 and cannot be applied retrospectively to bookings already confirmed. Offer applies to select tours only and cannot be combined with any other offer. Exclusions apply. Prices shown include discount. Single supplements apply. Prices correct at time of print. Subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. These holidays are organised and operated by Newmarket Holidays Ltd, a company wholly independent of News UK. ABTOT 5509. ATOL protected 2325. ABTA V7812. Standard phone charges apply.

Our trusted partner
Newmarket HOLIDAYS | ABTOT Member 5509 | ABTA travel with confidence

Kremlin propaganda stars make a killing

Russia
Tom Parfitt

When she was 15, Maryana Naumova stunned the bodybuilding world by bench pressing 150kg at the 2015 Arnold Classic in Columbus, Ohio.

The Terminator himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was impressed with the Russian prodigy. He hugged her, and she told him hoped he would "become the president of the United States and kick relations with Russia into shape".

Relations with Russia, however, have rarely been worse and, just over a decade on, Naumova, now 27, is one of President Putin's propagandists.

This motley crew — also among them a retired spy and a former adviser to President Nixon — are laughing all the way to the bank, according to a report by a Russian investigative website.

After she was banned from weightlifting for doping in 2016, Naumova rebranded herself as a war reporter for state media, frequently travelling to the Donbas region of Ukraine where she praised the "excellent Russian warriors" fighting there.

That led to a falling out with Schwarzenegger, who recorded an appeal to Russians in 2022, saying that they were being "sacrificed for a senseless war".

Naumova responded by telling her former hero that Putin's invasion was a just cause "aimed at the neo-Nazi Skynet" in Kyiv. For her efforts, she is being paid 8,814,000 roubles (£76,000) a year.

The top tier of television hosts, military bloggers and pro-Kremlin war correspondents earn the equivalent of £800,000 a year, Verstka reported after examining leaked documents from Russia's social fund, which takes mandatory contributions from taxpayers towards pensions and benefits.

One of the highest earners is Dmitry Kiselev, host of *Vesti Nedeli*, a weekly news digest — some would say rant — on the Rossiya 1 channel. He is paid 70,580,000 roubles (£606,000). In 2014, Kiselev stood in front of an image of a mushroom cloud and reminded viewers: "Russia is the only country in the world that is realistically capable of turning the US into radioactive ash."

Another high earner is Artyom Sheynin, whom Verstka called "one of the most aggressive propagandists on Russian television". Sheynin hosts *Vremya Pokazhet* (*Time will Tell*), a show of choreographed rage against the West in which he shouts at guests and has grabbed some by the neck. He is paid 63,778,000 roubles a year (£547,000). Margarita Simonyan, the editor-in-chief of RT — formerly Russia Today — who refers to Putin as "the boss", makes 37,458,000 roubles (£321,000).

Maria Butina, 37, was arrested in Washington in 2018 and convicted of conspiracy to act as an illegal foreign agent for Russia after she tried to infiltrate the National Rifle Association. Now an MP, Butina also works as a television host and personality, making 10,767,000 roubles per year (£92,410).

Verstka said that the propagandists made their money from salaries and state grants. At the top of its list was Dimitri Simes, 78, the Russian-American host of *Bolshaya Igra* (*Great Game*), who has moderated screen appearances by Putin.

Simes, who was indicted in the United States in 2024 for money laundering and violating sanctions, earns 97,000,000 roubles (£833,000) — about 970 times the national average gross income in Russia. Born in the USSR, he moved to the US as a child and became an adviser to Nixon, leading the Centre for the National Interest, a think tank founded by Nixon, from 1994 to 2022 before he returned to Moscow.

In an interview in 2022, Simes called President Zelensky of Ukraine a "nasty poodle" and likened Putin, in his supposed desire to defend his nation, to Winston Churchill. He has described the American indictment against him as censorship — a common practice in the Russian state media, which blacklists critics of the Kremlin.

Putin is known to see a loyal media as an essential tool in counteracting what he views as sinful and partial western coverage. Over the course of his rule, many opposition journalists have been killed, jailed or forced into exile. Independent media are designated "foreign agents". Media executives who toe the line get to meet Putin and receive state awards.

The Kremlin gives daily directives to state media on what stance to take on current events. What is less clear is what reporting the Russian leader consumes himself. Putin does not use the internet and his aides are said to carefully curate news digests for him.

Maryana Naumova reinvented herself as a war reporter

Agents of disinformation must be sanctioned, leading article, page 21

Business

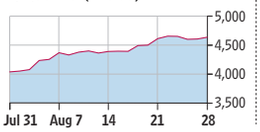
WORLD MARKETS (Friday's close. Change on the week)

FTSE 100
10,824.26 (+7.70) ▲

Dow Jones
53,559.99 (+282.98) ▲

COMMODITIES

Gold
$4,631.93 (+15.58) ▲

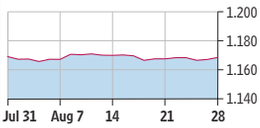


Brent crude (6pm)
$88.26 (-4.31) ▼

CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.3551 (-0.0090) ▼

£/€
€1.1685 (+0.0009) ▲



Lloyds refuses to reimburse victims of alleged £160m Ponzi scheme

James Hurley

Lloyds Banking Group has said it will not reimburse victims of an alleged £160 million Ponzi scheme because it regards it as a "legitimate" investment.

The bank told an investor in Godwin Capital, which collapsed in 2025, that "we can't consider this was a scam" despite insolvency practitioners having sued the scheme's directors for alleged mismanagement, fraudulent trading and breach of fiduciary duty.

Lloyds was the receiving bank for the approximately £160 million raised from investors by Godwin, a "loan notes" investment business, in which about 2,500 investors are expected to recover about only 5p for every £1 they put in.

Godwin's directors have had their assets frozen in a £155 million claim against them.

Insolvency practitioners have alleged Godwin was a Ponzi scheme, the term for an unlawful investment business that uses new investors' money to repay liabilities to old ones rather than legitimate commercial activity. Godwin's directors have not publicly commented on the claims.

It is understood that an estimated £35 million of Godwin investors' money went to third-party promoters in allegedly undisclosed commission payments. Godwin's relationship with Lloyds was used by promoters, with inaccurate information about the relationship given to investors to suggest that their money was safe.

Third-party promoters who sold the scheme were encouraged with "incentives" including a four-day "supercar tour through Tuscany, Italy", with a McLaren 720S and a Lamborghini Huracán Performante Spyder among the cars on offer.

Regulations designed to protect victims of so-called authorised push payment (APP) fraud were introduced in October 2024 and require mandatory repayment of fraud victims.

A mandatory reimbursement model governs payments made on or after October 7 that year, while a voluntary "contingency reimbursement model" applied for payments before this date, under which banks committed to reimbursing customers who are not to blame for the success of a scam.

The Lloyds letter relates to a complaint to Lloyds under the voluntary regime.

Lloyds said that because Godwin appeared to be a "legitimate investment"

Continued on Page 30

Borrowing costs worry for Burnham

Warnings over fiscal headroom before budget

Jack Barnett Economics Correspondent

The cost of paying for newly sold UK government debt has risen to its highest level in nearly three decades, underscoring the tough fiscal backdrop as Andy Burnham and John Healey draw up tax and spending plans for their first budget less than two months from now.

The average interest rate, or yield, has stayed close to a near three-decade high over the past two years amid stubborn inflation, investor concerns about global public borrowing and hundreds of billions of pounds worth of bond sales by the Bank of England.

Analysis by The Times of data from the Debt Management Office, the government agency in charge of selling debt, found that the average yield on UK bonds, or gilts, sold to investors was 3.8 per cent so far this year, within touching distance of levels last seen in 1998 when the average yield exceeded 4 per cent.

The sharp rise in the amount the government has to pay investors that have purchased its debt has added to pressure on the public finances. The Office for Budget Responsibility has forecast that debt interest spending will exceed £100 billion a year — the equivalent of the MoD and Home Office's combined budgets — until at least the 2030s.

Economists have warned the prime minister and chancellor that the amount of headroom against the UK's main fiscal rule, funding day-to-day public spending with tax revenues, may have more than halved from £23.7 billion because of the rise in UK bond yields and higher energy prices since war broke out in the Middle East six months ago.

This has prompted speculation about tax rises or spending cuts at the budget on October 28. Burnham said last week he would be realistic about the "challenging" state of the public finances and refused to rule out tax increases.

James Smith, developed markets economist at ING, said: "This year it's been all about oil. For all the talk about Burnham and what he means for the bond market, government borrowing costs have been driven almost singularly by energy prices and their perceived impact on the Bank of England."

Tomasz Wieladek, chief European macro strategist at T Rowe Price, said: "The UK's fiscal fundamentals aren't bad relative to other countries. But the big difference is poor inflation performance. That is the true reason why gilt yields are higher than in other countries, as investors now require inflation compensation."

Investors are also nervous about a lack of appetite among governments in rich economies to rein in sky-high borrowing, which in part led to long-dated 30-year bond yields reaching multi-decade highs in August.

The Bank of England and other central banks are offloading government debt that they purchased under quantitative easing programmes, amplifying upward pressure on bond yields.

The Treasury said: "The OBR will publish its updated forecast alongside the budget in October and we will not comment on rumour, speculation or proposals about its contents ahead of then."

RIVER CALLAWAY/WWD/GETTY IMAGES

Support act Pop star Olivia Rodrigo is joined on stage at her Daisy Chain Fields music festival in California this weekend by philanthropist Melinda French Gates, who doubled the $10 million raised by the event for ten organisations working with women and girls through her Pivotal Ventures foundation to a total of $20 million

Reform makes pitch for business vote

Emma Powell Media and Telecoms Editor

Some of Britain's biggest companies will descend on Reform UK's national conference as the party steps up efforts to woo business leaders and improve its economic credibility.

Businesses including Vodafone, EE, Heathrow and JCB are among those attending or running events at the three-day party summit, which kicks off at the National Exhibition Centre on the outskirts of Birmingham on Thursday.

The party will host an inaugural business day, which it has said would place "the business community at the heart of the programme", offering access to the party's leadership.

A spokesman for Heathrow said the airport had a long history of constructive engagement across the political spectrum. "Like many businesses — from airlines to pubs and banks to supermarkets — it is common practice to sponsor events at party conferences to engage policymakers and ensure they better understand the needs of consumers and the economy," he added.

The Times previously reported that Reform had almost doubled some commercial costs for its annual conference, ditched promises of free champagne and custom cocktail naming rights, presenting an event much more akin to traditional political party conferences.

In an attempt to woo wealthy backers and boost its coffers, the cost of some conference packages has also increased. The price of platinum tickets have risen from £2,500 per person to £3,000 plus VAT, offering a champagne breakfast with Nigel Farage, fast-track entry and access to a special lounge.

Insiders previously said it was "a necessary part of our professionalisation, even if it is a bit more boring".

The increased effort to win over businesses comes after the party won hundreds of councils in the May elections and beat Labour to second place in contests for the Welsh Senedd and joint-second in Holyrood.

The party has proposed scrapping the contentious increase in employers' national insurance contributions for workers who are British nationals, and cutting VAT for the hospitality sector.

Need to know

1 Young people's lack of soft skills, work readiness and resilience, risk fuelling the unemployment crisis, according to a survey of employers by the Department for Work & Pensions. Page 7

2 The cost of paying for newly sold UK government debt has risen to its highest level in nearly three decades, underscoring the tough fiscal backdrop as Andy Burnham and John Healey prepare for their first budget in less than two months. Page 27

3 Lloyds Banking Group has said it will not reimburse victims of an alleged £160 million Ponzi scheme under the industry's fraud rules because it regards it as a "legitimate" investment. The bank told an investor in Godwin Capital, which collapsed in 2025, that "we can't consider this was a scam". Page 27

4 Some of Britain's biggest companies will descend on Reform UK's national conference as the party steps up efforts to woo business leaders and improve its economic credibility. Businesses including Vodafone, EE, Heathrow and JCB will be among those at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham on Thursday. Page 27

5 Britain's largest private medical imaging company has raised $220 million from investors including Aviva, as it eyes a potential stock market float. Scan.com will put the funds towards a bigger push into the US medical imaging market.

6 The conflict in the Middle East is set to cost British households £70.4 billion in lost spending power over the next two years, as rising energy prices drive inflation higher and wages slow. The average household is expected to be £1,100 worse off in real terms this year and a further £1,300 worse off in 2027 — a combined £2,400 hit. Page 30

7 The budget airline easyJet is expected to return to the FTSE 100 in this week's reshuffle after its shares were boosted by a recommended £5.7 billion takeover offer by a US private equity firm. Page 30

"For devolution to be genuinely effective, we need to look at unlocking data usage

Paul Johnson, page 35

For expert business analysis subscribe to the business newsletter thetimes.com/newsletters

Kingmaker who wields

THE TIMES
TITANS OF AI PART 5: JENSEN HUANG

Nvidia is now a tech behemoth — but its boss started working life as a dishwasher, writes **Stephen Witt**

There are not a lot of people in this world who can hitch a ride on Air Force One, but that is exactly what Nvidia's chief executive Jensen Huang did this year on the evening of May 12.

The plane, which was carrying President Trump to a summit with China's President Xi in Beijing, had stopped at Ted Stevens Anchorage international airport in Alaska to refuel, and a few members of the president's press pool had exited to stretch their legs.

To their astonishment, they saw a figure walking towards them across the tarmac, clad in a black leather jacket, black shirt, black jeans and black shoes, with a black backpack slung across one shoulder. The man was small and walked fast, and his dark outfit contrasted with his striking silver hair.

"Is that ... is that Jensen?" asked Emily Goodin, a member of the White House press pool. It was.

Trump's trip to China resembled a hastily planned bachelor party. Huang joined after receiving a phone call from the president, having chartered a private jet from California's Bay Area to Alaska on a few hours' notice.

On the tarmac, Goodin and the other reporters rushed towards him, but security intervened. Before boarding, Huang stopped briefly to chat with the conservative talk show host Sean Hannity and the president's son, Eric. Then he climbed the staircase to the plane's front cabin, where he took a seat among the president's entourage, which included fellow tech mogul Elon Musk.

Trump needed Huang on that plane, since the Taiwan-born businessman is the most powerful person in AI. His firm, Nvidia, makes the hardware that is currently powering the data centre boom. Nvidia enjoys a near monopoly in this market segment and its equipment powers advanced models from Anthropic and OpenAI. At the time of writing, Nvidia is the world's most valuable public company.

Soon, Huang was in China, attending a state dinner at the Great Hall of the People with Xi and Trump in attendance. He sat at a table with Musk and Tim Cook, the Apple chief executive.

It was a long way from the Bay Area to Beijing, but Huang's journey, from lowly dishwasher to the emperor of AI, was longer still.

Jensen Huang was born in 1963 in Taipei, the middle child of an engineer and a schoolteacher. His parents sent him and his older brother to the US in 1973 to live with an uncle in Oregon.

The boys were then sent to a boarding school in rural Kentucky, which his uncle apparently believed was a prestigious preparatory academy, but was in fact a juvenile reform institution. The grounds were covered with cigarette butts and many students carried knives.

Here, Huang was subjected to a great deal of racist abuse and was made to clean the school's toilets. He later described his time at the school, with no irony, as a "lucky break", teaching him the value of perseverance, hard work and humility.

Huang returned to Oregon in 1975 and earned top marks as a student. There he began working at Denny's, a diner chain better known for its late opening hours than its food.

"You know, I used to be a dishwasher here," Huang told me when I met him at a Denny's for pancakes in 2023. "But I worked hard! Like, really hard. So I got to be a busboy."

He then attended Oregon State University, where he studied electrical engineering. His lab partner, Lori Mills, soon became his wife.

In 1983, Huang found work in Silicon Valley draughting microchip designs on paper. Lori did, too — and initially, she made more than him.

A brilliant and ambitious employee with an almost superhuman work ethic, Huang rose quickly through the Silicon Valley hierarchy, gaining a reputation for his superior microchip designs. By his late twenties, he was leading an entire division.

In 1993, he set off on his own, joining fellow electrical engineers Curtis Priem and Chris Malachowsky to found Nvidia. The initial paperwork was drafted in a Denny's diner.

After nearly going bankrupt twice, Nvidia eventually found its niche with a graphics processing unit (GPU) for video games that complemented the traditional central processing unit (CPU). In 1999, the firm went public and by the early 2000s, its GeForce GPUs were a must-have for gamers.

Gamers — and game developers — began putting serious demands on the GPUs. A pro-gamer playing *Call of Duty* required several billion calculations a second to stay competitive. To meet these needs, Nvidia increased the calculation speed of its microchips through an innovative approach known as "accelerated computing".

By the early 2000s, the computational throughput of a GeForce GPU far exceeded that of a conventional Intel CPU. Scientists took note and began hacking these GPUs, repurposing them into low-budget supercomputers for more socially productive uses than video gaming, like weather forecasting and quantum physics.

Sensing a new market, Huang developed Cuda (compute unified device architecture), an omni-purpose science platform that ran on Nvidia's video-game hardware. Initial adoption was slow and for many years Nvidia lost money on this initiative.

The stock price languished and by the early 2010s, Nvidia was being tar-

Medical imaging giant raises $220m for US push

Emma Powell Media and Telecoms Editor

Britain's largest private medical imaging company has raised $220 million from investors including Aviva as it eyes a potential stock market float.

Scan.com, which is based in London, will put the funds towards a bigger push into the American medical imaging market, which is estimated to be worth more than $100 billion.

The $90 million equity round was led by Noteus Partners, a French investment company, with backing from investors including Aviva and Concord Health Partners, while debt facilities totalling $130 million were provided by VerisFi Capital and Atempo Growth.

It already generates most of its revenue in the US, where about 80 per cent of its workforce is based.

The American medical imaging market is projected to grow to just over $121 billion by 2033, according to forecasts by Grand View Research, the American market research provider.

Charlie Bullock, co-founder and chief executive of Scan.com, said while about 600 million medical imaging scans are run in the US each year, there was still no national infrastructure network. "Labs got that decades ago with Quest Diagnostics and Labcorp. Imaging never did, and that is what we have built," Bullock, 30, said.

"We're a fraction of 1 per cent in terms of [market] penetration," he said. "Our ambition is to be the leading, biggest diagnostic imaging company in the US. We're nowhere near there yet, but we feel like we're on track."

The fundraising comes as the company prepares this week to meet officials at the London Stock Exchange as it aims for a potential IPO. However, Bullock said the company had yet to decide on a listing venue for the company. Despite the company's US ambitions, it had no intention of moving its headquarters from the UK, Bullock said.

There is growing concern that UK markets are not attractive enough to retain the highest quality British start-up companies amid a long-running dearth of scale-up capital needed to grow the most promising companies in the UK.

Last month a consortium of some of the UK's largest pension providers agreed to explore the creation of a "UK Scale-up Fund" that would back the most promising British private companies, managing more than £1 billion.

Ant Barker, director of venture capital at Aviva Investors, said that UK pension funds increasingly want greater access to high-growth, unlisted companies "that build tomorrow's technologies and create social value".

"[Scan.com is] one of the fastest-growing companies in our venture capital portfolio, and well placed to deliver long-term returns for UK savers and institutional investors," he said.

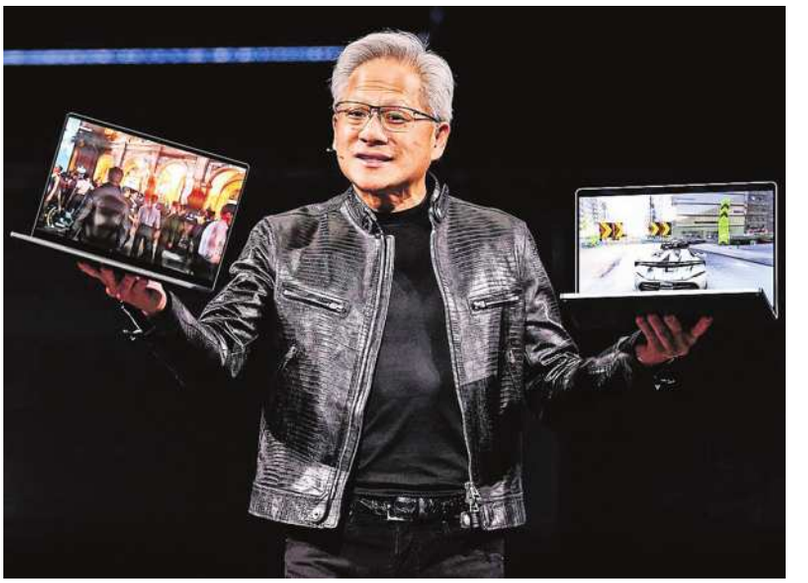
The company, which had already raised just over $57 million in two previous funding rounds, was founded in 2021 by Bullock, Oliver Knight and Joe Daniels, along with Jasper Nissim, an osteopath, and Khalid Latief, a consultant radiologist.

"[We] saw this problem in the UK around lack of access to diagnostic imaging, lack of price transparency and increased NHS waiting times. We saw plenty of capacity in unused imaging centres and hospitals ... but there was no way to access it," Bullock said.

The company provides a website for booking scans, managing referrals and sharing results, utilising spare capacity at private providers. Last year it generated $85 million in revenue.

power in the court of Trump

JIM WATSON/AFP; I-HWA CHENG/GETTY IMAGES



Jensen Huang always gets what he wants, whether that is with President Trump on exports, or dominating the AI market

geted by corporate activists who sent menacing letters to the board, questioning Huang's wisdom. But Huang stuck with the bet, hoping to unlock some new branch of science where Nvidia could be the default provider.

That long, patient bet paid off in 2012 when Alex Krizhevsky, a graduate student at Toronto University, unveiled a hyperfast neural net that ran on Nvidia's Cuda platform.

The combination of biologically inspired software running on video-game hardware proved unexpectedly, immensely powerful: Krizhevsky's AlexNet, which ran on two GPUs, was essentially the *Wright Flyer* of AI. Its success triggered a paradigm shift in computing and by 2013, executives at Google were placing orders for tens of thousands of Nvidia GPUs.

Later that year, Huang wrote in a company-wide email: "We are no longer a graphics card company. We are now an AI company."

After a dozen years in the doldrums, Nvidia's stock price had begun to move sharply higher, often in large, discontinuous upward gaps. By 2014, Huang was forecasting an enormous build-out and began shipping not just GPU cards, but entire racks — and sometimes entire buildings' worth — of Nvidia equipment. Soon, dedicated AI data centres were being constructed, powered by Nvidia hardware.

Nvidia stock doubled, doubled, and doubled again; in 2020, Nvidia surpassed Intel as the world's most valuable microchip firm.

In 2024, after Huang declared that the data-centre boom constituted a "new industrial revolution", the stock added more value in a day than the entire value of the Coca-Cola company. By 2025, it was the most valuable publicly listed company in the world and Huang's net worth crossed $100 billion.

Today, with 33 years of experience, Huang is the single longest-serving tech chief executive in the S&P 500.

He is a driven, difficult boss: he sets impossible deadlines and is prone to throwing tantrums when they aren't met. I've heard many accounts of him shouting at employees — he is a master of the withering put-down. He even screamed at me once, which was an unforgettable experience.

But Huang also has a loving side. He remains married to Lori, and his children, Spencer and Madison, both work at the company. Employees live in fear of his wrath, but they also crave his approval and those who have stuck with him for the long term are now exceptionally wealthy.

In AI, Huang is like the classic gold-rush entrepreneur — you know, the one who sells shovels. Access to the latest Nvidia equipment is a must for serious AI developers, and it is ultimately Huang's determination as to which GPUs are shipped where.

He claims not to play favourites, but in truth, Huang is the AI kingmaker. He invests in start-ups and provides financing to firms like OpenAI. His wealth and influence have made him a figure of global importance.

Trump, who likes winners, has embraced him — in addition to offering him a ride on his plane, the two have appeared in public together on at least seven separate times since 2025.

Huang, in turn, has publicly flattered the president, praising his "genius" on the Joe Rogan podcast. Not coincidentally, he managed to get the US export ban on sales of Nvidia chips to China lifted, giving the company access to the world's greatest untapped market.

And yet, despite his gallivanting with the president, Huang likes to display the common touch with ordinary people. When I ate breakfast with him at Denny's, he spent a lot of time talking to the waitress, and when he left he tipped her $1,000. A few days after eating a state dinner with the most powerful men in the world, he went viral for consuming a $6 bowl of noodles with chopsticks while standing on the street outside the tiny Fangzhuanchang No. 69 noodle shop in Beijing.

In China and Taiwan, Huang's celebrity rivals that of Steve Jobs at his peak —the next day, the noodle shop rebranded his order as the "leather jacket War God", one of Huang's Mandarin-language nicknames.

Of course, this common man shtick is something of a performance, but everything Huang does, including his work as chief executive and his back-slapping treatment of narcissistic world leaders, is something of a performance too. He's a calculating guy.

Beneath this volatile personality is a sober microchip engineer, constantly assessing inputs and outputs — be they social, financial, or technical — and tweaking them until he gets the desired result.

In this way, whether it is a market monopoly or a ride on Air Force One, Huang always gets what he wants.

Stephen Witt is the author of The Thinking Machine: Jensen Huang, Nvidia and the World's Most Coveted Microchip, which was named the Financial Times and Schroders Business Book of the Year for 2025

Wealth fund backs Oxford maker of EV batteries

Emma Powell

The National Wealth Fund has put almost £53 million into a company in Oxford that makes battery materials for electric vehicles and is looking to expand its UK production facilities.

The taxpayer-backed fund led a £100 million funding round for Nexeon, which develops silicon-based materials that give lithium-ion batteries a higher energy density. These reduce charging times and extend the vehicles' range.

Korea Development Bank and Honda Xcelerator Ventures, the Japanese carmaker's venture capital arm, also participated in the funding.

Spun out of Imperial College London in 2006, Nexeon's technology can also be used in batteries powering laptops, phones and medical devices.

The funds will help develop a pilot manufacturing facility in the UK, which will also support further research and development.

John Healey said: "If we are serious about growth, we must be serious about backing British businesses like this with conditions for them to start, scale and succeed here in the UK, as the National Wealth Fund are doing here."

David Lamb, finance chief at Nexeon said: "The quality of the Nexeon commercial proposition is reflected in the quality of investors we continue to attract."

Nexeon recently opened the world's first volume production facility for silicon-carbon materials dedicated to enhancing lithium-ion battery performance in Gunsan, South Korea.

Space investment vehicle to launch

Chris Dorrell Technology Correspondent

Seraphim Space will launch an exchange traded fund this week focused on the modern space economy, opening up greater retail investment access to the booming industry.

The vehicle, which Seraphim describes as the first in the world to target the "new space economy", is expected to list on three European exchanges on Wednesday. It will give investors access to the "new cohort of recently listed New Space companies [which] are disrupting incumbents and defining the sector's trajectory".

An exchange traded fund, or ETF, is a basket of investments that gives investors exposure to many different securities across a sector. The New Space ETF will be operated by HANetf, an independent provider, while Seraphim will pick the companies that are included in the vehicle. About 23 companies will be part of the ETF, including SpaceX, Rocket Lab, AST SpaceMobile and HawkEye 360.

Seraphim Space Investment Trust will also be included in the ETF, giving investors indirect exposure to its portfolio of unlisted companies. The fund, which will be "conviction-weighted", will be reset every year. There will also be a fast-track mechanism for new companies going public to be included.

Mark Boggett, the chief executive, said the vehicle addressed a gap in the market as many ETFs in the sector were "tilted in the wrong direction".

He said: "The ETFs in the market today have is a mixture of 'new space' and 'old space' without much focus. But the old space companies... have got much bigger market caps, which means there's an overweighting to old space and an underweighting to new space."

Boggett said that old space companies relied on technologies that had a long track record of working in space, but were often very expensive and featured a lot of built-in redundancy.

"So, for a period of about 20 years, we saw the space industry really pushing back on innovation," he said. Adding that the new space economy, exemplified by SpaceX, was premised on the idea of making technology "as cheap as possible, rather than as reliable as possible, and then iterating until they get to a certain design that works reliably".

The industry is growing fast. A report from McKinsey estimated that the market will reach $1.8 trillion by 2035, up from $600 billion now. Investment into private space tech companies is also growing fast, reaching $23 billion over the 12 months to June, according to Seraphim's investment index, up from $9.7 billion a year earlier.

CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Carmaker Aston Martin Lagonda is facing ejection from the FTSE 250, while easyJet, left, and Ithaca Energy are set for promotion in September

EasyJet to soar back into the FTSE 100

Budget airline easyJet is expected to return to the FTSE 100 in this week's reshuffle after its shares were boosted by a recommended £5.7 billion takeover offer by an American private equity firm (Isabella Fish writes).

Quite how long it stays in the premier index will depend on the duration of a regulatory investigation into the deal with Apollo Capital Management takes and whether Brussels is prepared to wave through a new ownership structure.

As things stand, easyJet and the North Sea oil and gas producer Ithaca Energy will be promoted, while Entain, the gambling group, and housebuilder Persimmon the face dropping into the FTSE 250.

Aston Martin Lagonda, the lossmaking carmaker, is set to leave the FTSE 250 and enter the SmallCap index.

Meanwhile, the automotive technology company Pinewood Technologies Group — also the subject of a takeover offer — and Volex, Lord Rothschild's electrical manufacturing company, are on course to be promoted to the FTSE 250.

The changes are not yet official. Index provider FTSE Russell's indicative review is based on market data from August 21, but it will conduct its actual review using prices at the close of trading on September 1. The confirmed changes will be announced on September 2. Under FTSE Russell's rules, a company can be demoted from the FTSE 100 if it falls below 110th place by full market capitalisation.

For easyJet, a return to the FTSE 100 index, which it has been in and out of over the years, comes despite issues with price-sensitive customers over the summer and heavy losses last winter.

Ithaca Energy is also expected to join the top-flight index.

The British oil and gas company's market value has climbed to about £4.5 billion, helped by strong financial results and higher oil and gas prices. Its shares have risen about 64 per cent this year.

At the other end of the table, Entain has fallen about 30 per cent this year and is facing relegation.

The owner of Ladbrokes and Coral has been hit by the rise in UK remote gaming duty from 21 per cent to 40 per cent in April.

Persimmon is also expected to leave the FTSE 100 after its shares fell about 13 per cent this year.

Iran war to cost each British household £2,400 by next year

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

The conflict in the Middle East is set to cost British households £70.4 billion in lost spending power over the next two years, as rising energy prices drive inflation higher and wages slow.

The average household is expected to be £1,100 worse off in real terms this year and a further £1,300 worse off in 2027 — a combined £2,400 hit, according to a new analysis by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

The report says that the conflict has triggered the second major energy supply shock in less than five years, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Disruption to shipping through to the Strait of Hormuz pushed energy prices higher and reignited inflationary pressures just as the UK economy had been expected to benefit from further interest-rate cuts.

The CEBR estimates that conflict-related inflation will account for 32.1 per cent of the erosion in real earnings this year — rising to 44.6 per cent in 2027 — excluding the effect of population growth on aggregate disposable income.

The immediate impact is being felt through the cost of household energy, transport and other essentials. But the report argues that the damage will extend well beyond higher bills, with weaker consumer spending, reduced business investment and a softer labour market adding to the squeeze.

There are already signs of that pressure in official figures. The Office for National Statistics reported that UK consumer price inflation rose to 2.9 per cent in July, up from 2.6 per cent in June. CPIH, which includes owner-occupiers' housing costs, increased to 3.1 per cent.

Energy has become a particular source of renewed inflationary pressure. ONS figures showed inflation in housing and household services jumping to 4.1 per cent in July from 2.7 per the previous month, driven in large by gas prices. Gas prices were 14.7 per cent higher than a year earlier, while electricity prices rose 3.6 per cent.

The latest Ofgem price-cap increase added about £221 to the annual bill for a typical dual-fuel household, taking it to £1,862. Another increase from October will add about £60, despite the removal of VAT on electricity saving roughly £45.

The CEBR expects the pressure to intensify over winter, and Cornwall Insight forecasts a further 9 per cent rise in the energy price cap in the first quarter of 2027.

At the same time, households are losing some protection from rising wages. ONS data showed regular pay growth slowed to 3.5 per cent in the year to June, while private sector regular pay growth was 2.8 per cent. Vacancies also fell to about 707,000 in the three months to July, their lowest level outside the pandemic period since 2014.

The consequences are expected to feed directly into the wider economy. The CEBR forecasts that real household spending power will be eroded by £31.5 billion this year and £38.9 billion next year, slowing consumer spending through the rest of 2026 and 2027.

Wind farm recycling opens door to new industry

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

One of Britain's earliest wind farms has been fully recycled and reused, in a first that could herald the start of a new domestic sustainable energy recycling industry.

Scottish Power said an external review of the decommissioning of old turbines from its Hagshaw Hill wind farm in Scotland showed that less than 0.1 per cent had been sent to landfill.

The breakthrough for the project came after Northern Ireland-based Plaswire pioneered ways of recycling old wind turbine blades, which have historically been hard to dispose of sustainably. Plaswire's boss Andrew Billingsley told The Times it was preparing to develop a second recycling facility in Scotland that could create dozens of jobs in anticipation of handling increasing volumes of blades as old wind farms come to the end of their life.

"We need a lot of investment — we have to grow fast," he said.

Much of a wind turbine is made from steel that can be readily recycled, but blades pose more of a challenge as they are made from fibreglass.

Photos of old blades being stacked up in huge landfill sites in America have been an unedifying spectacle for a supposedly green industry. The European wind industry recently made a voluntary commitment not to send any blades to landfill.

Britain is only now starting to grapple with the challenge of decommissioning wind turbines as some of its first commercial sites reach the end of their life. In many cases the industry is seeking to "repower" the sites, replacing obsolete first-generation turbines with far bigger and more powerful new ones.

Hagshaw Hill in South Lanarkshire was Scotland's first commercial windfarm when it started generating in 1995, comprising 26 turbines with a total capacity of 15.6 megawatts. ScottishPower removed these turbines in 2023 and has since replaced them with 14 bigger turbines capable of generating 80 gigawatts in total, or enough electricity over a typical year to supply the equivalent of 57,000 homes.

Costs for recycling have not been disclosed but are thought to have been relatively high for the first project.

To cover its costs, Plaswire is paid by the wind farm to take the blades and then also sells on the recycled materials. Billingsley said Plaswire would turn over about £3 million this year.

Lloyds: we can't consider this a scam

Continued from page 27

it wasn't covered by the code. The letter, seen by The Times, reads: "We haven't reviewed the payments under this code, as it doesn't apply to legitimate investments.

"Based on the information you've provided, the payments you made were investments in a legitimate company.

"There isn't any evidence currently available that shows your funds were not really invested as intended."

The bank also told the customer: "We can't consider this was a scam."

The unregulated scheme told investors they were investing in secured commercial property but insolvency practitioners have established that Godwin had no assets beyond intercompany balances.

The City regulator has told consumers to avoid unregulated loan notes schemes after an investigation by The Times into a rise in schemes estimated to have put billions of pounds of consumer money at risk, saying they were often "potential scams".

Martin Richardson, senior partner at Richardson Hartley Law, which represents scores of Godwin Capital investors, said his firm was challenging the bank's position.

"Administrators have brought civil claims against directors that include allegations of fraud," he said.

"It doesn't make any sense for Lloyds to conclude this was a legitimate company without investigating."

A Lloyds spokeswoman declined to comment on the bank's position, but said: "Protecting our customers is our top priority, and we take our financial crime responsibilities very seriously."

Paul Johnson

Devolution drive will only work if mayors are given the right tools

Governing is hard. Designing and implementing effective policy is hard. So, you would think governments would be doing all they can to make life easier for themselves. They are not. In one particular area progress has been painfully slow, despite enormous opportunities, and where the push for devolution should make improvement an even greater priority. That is in accessing, linking and using data.

If devolution is going to work, mayors and combined authorities will take greater responsibility for economic growth, health, skills and public services. To make that work they will need the access, and the skills, to make the best possible use of all the extraordinary data that government collects.

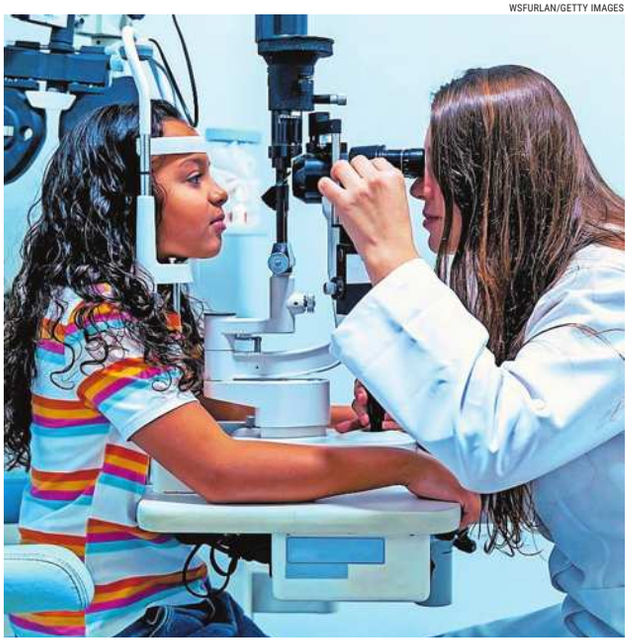
That is going to be a challenge. For, even within Whitehall, barriers to effective use, sharing and linkage of data are everywhere. They are a frequent source of frustration to all involved. It used to drive me nuts. Negotiating data access was probably the most frustrating and most time-consuming barrier that my colleagues and I had to deal with when I was at the Institute for Fiscal Studies. It is often unclear who has the power to unblock problems. Responsibility is shared between departments, the Cabinet Office, the Office for National Statistics and, frequently, one or more arm's-length bodies.

Of course, it is important to work within the legal framework that provides effective safeguards. Too often, though, the problem is not that there are real legal barriers; it is fragmented accountability, inconsistent interpretation and institutional incentives that make saying "no" safer than finding a lawful route to "yes".

For devolution to be genuinely effective, it needs to come with a clear and comprehensive agreement on data usage. Otherwise, all the mayoral authorities will find themselves separately trying to overcome the same legal, technical and institutional barriers that central government has failed to systematically tackle for decades. The result will be duplication, massive wasted effort, incompatible approaches and, ultimately, weaker delivery.

That agreement needs to cover data sharing so that devolved authorities can access data that is currently held in siloed systems across departments, agencies and other public bodies. It also needs to cover data linkage, allowing information from different sources to be combined to answer questions that no single dataset can address. There are risks to be managed, particularly around privacy, but the opportunities are huge.

WSFURLAN/GETTY IMAGES



By linking NHS and schools data, pupils with poor eyesight were given glasses

It is often only by linking data — on education, health, earnings, welfare, the justice system — that it is possible to understand some of our biggest challenges. Linked data is the best route out of the siloed policymaking that has for so long hampered effective policy design and implementation. And that, after all, is intended to be one of the great advantages of devolving power — escaping Whitehall silos and designing policies together to be effective locally.

There are already good examples of datasets that have proved their worth nationally and should be available to inform policy locally. The Longitudinal Education Outcomes dataset (Leo) links information from schools and universities on educational outcomes with tax data on what happens to incomes and earnings later on. It allows us to look at, among much else, the impacts of different sorts of education on earnings. If you have read estimates of the value of different degree choices, then Leo is the data that has made those estimates possible. You can immediately see how this sort of data would be useful at a local level. It can help to answer questions about the needs of the local labour market, the relevance of local vocational provision, how well poor and vulnerable children are served, and the extent to which local young people move away for opportunities.

The Ministry of Justice has created reusable datasets, secure research access and analytical services that allow government, researchers and service providers to examine relationships between education, criminal justice, and later outcomes. Again, just the sort of resource that mayoral authorities should be using.

These sorts of datasets should become the basic infrastructure of devolved authorities. But it is infrastructure that is still lacking across much of the public sector, and even where it exists in principle it is often prohibitively difficult to access.

There are already good local examples. In West Yorkshire, the groundbreaking Born in Bradford study has linked a survey of a cohort of those born locally in the late 2000s to education and NHS data. That has driven some remarkable insights and policy successes. For example, by combining education and NHS data they were able to see that a lot of children diagnosed with poor eyesight had not gone on to get glasses and were struggling at school. Fix the eyesight problem and literacy rates improved.

Health Innovation Manchester and NHS Greater Manchester have helped bring together primary, secondary and social care data for more than three million people. That linked infrastructure supports real-time clinical decision-making and also supports research, clinical trials and treatment development. Work by Frontier Economics, for example, has shown how the economic and social burden of cardiovascular disease varies across the city region, and has been the basis for the design of effective policies on prevention. This data will also support future evaluation.

These are just tasters of the sorts of insights that better data should enable across mayoral authorities. Too often in the public sector the potential of data is underappreciated, data infrastructure is an afterthought, and institutionalised risk aversion drives too many decisions. If our new prime minister's vision of devolved government is to have any chance of success, then data enablement needs to be at the core of the devolution settlement. It should provide a clear framework for access and linkage, legal certainty and support to develop capability. It is potentially the most important, and cost effective, route to making a success of devolving power from Whitehall.

Paul Johnson is provost of The Queen's College, Oxford, and a senior adviser at Frontier Economics

Gen Z would pay more rent to live near a gym

Jessica Newman

Access to a gym is becoming a key factor in the younger generation's hunt for a home — and they are willing to pay for it, a survey suggests.

Almost three quarters — or 72 per cent — of 18 to 24-year-olds said access to a gym or fitness facility was an important consideration when choosing where to live, according to a poll by The Gym Group.

Thirty-two per cent said they would spend more on rent or housing to live closer to a gym, and would pay an average of £40 extra rent a month, amounting to £480 extra a year. In London, 82 per cent said access to a gym mattered when choosing where to live in the capital.

Members of Gen Z — those who were born between the late 1990s and early 2010s — are known to prioritise their mental and physical health. Overall, 58 per cent of those surveyed said they exercised at least twice a week, while more than half (54 per cent) attended a gym at least once a week.

The survey found that 42 per cent of respondents prefer to spend their disposable income on health and fitness memberships before other categories — including eating out, travelling or paying for streaming services — up from 26 per cent a year ago.

The Gym Group's survey, conducted in partnership with OnePoll was based on the views of 2,000 random adults aged 16 to 29.

Will Orr, chief executive of The Gym Group, said: "The findings in this year's report paint a clear picture that going to the gym is becoming more than a way to stay active, it is increasingly influencing how young adults organise their everyday lives."

Nearly 60 per cent of those polled said they exercised twice a week

Get some wit for your walls

Find your own signed and framed print of our cartoonists' finest work, featuring Peter Brookes, Morten Morland, Peter Schrank and more.

Prices start at £58. Order from timescartoons.com

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Taking the scenic route to model railway heaven

THE TIMES ENTREPRENEURS NETWORK MANUFACTURING

A family-run business in a corner of Devon is celebrating 80 years of serving enthusiasts, **Richard Tyler** writes

Sitting on a hillside overlooking the sea and the east Devon fishing village of Beer is the world's largest manufacturer of miniature railway track.

Pritchard Patent Product Co, trading as Peco, has produced a wide range of track, wagons and accessories to different gauges and scales, as well as magazines for model railway enthusiasts, since it first opened its doors in 1946.

Lorries are dispatched down the county's notoriously narrow lanes destined for customers in 47 countries including Germany, the US, Japan and Australia.

Model railway enthusiasts have long known about Peco's importance. Sir Rod Stewart, Pete Waterman and Jools Holland have had their railways featured in Peco's flagship magazine, *Railway Modeller*, which has clocked up 900 issues since it was first published in 1949.

Luke Nicolson — the 26-year-old social media trainspotter known as Francis Bourgeois — visited the company this summer with his family, the company says. Nicolson credits Peco with first piquing his passion for trains. A 7¼-inch gauge light railway operating on the site, complete with station, tunnel and gardens, opened in 1975 and is regarded as one of the best of its kind in the country.

As it marks its 80th year of trading, the family-owned company has just brought the production of its nickel silver rails in-house. It now has control of almost everything it produces for the first time in many years.

Why isn't their story better known? "Too shy," says Michael Pritchard, 78, the chairman and son of the company's founder, Sydney. He is only half-joking. Will Lane, the chief operating officer who works with Pritchard's nephew and the company's managing director, Ben Robarts-Arnold, to push its interests, is more direct. "The company is so successful because it is based on quality not bravado. Everything is made in China in this hobby, apart from at Peco," he says.

Taking the cue, Pritchard adds: "The quality of the product speaks for itself and people buy it as opposed to buying something from Hornby. People see us as better quality."

Detail and quality is an asset when it comes to model-making but can be a curse too. The track is so reliable it does not need replacing very often. Even when things break, Peco can't stop itself from helping its customers. It has a repair booth in its railway layout showroom where it mends track, often for free.

"We still get people sending in track they bought 50 years ago because we repair it. I am not kidding you," says Lane, who is one year into the role and clearly resigned to picking his battles. "It is absolutely stupid," admits Pritchard. It is just how Peco does things. Properly.

Financially, the last few years have not been easy. While Covid was a boon for sales with more people looking for hobbies, the resulting second-hand market for locomotives and equipment has acted as a drag on new sales. The recent employer national insurance and national minimum wage increases added £400,000 to the company's cost base, nudging it into losses. This resulted in 18 people losing their jobs last November, the first redundancies at the company since its inception, and a deeply traumatic experience for everyone involved.

The job losses were concentrated among those staffing the popular Pecorama railway tourist attraction, which takes up about half the site in Beer. The attraction was costing the business between £200,000 and £400,000 a year to run. "[The costs] were basically to pay the wages in the winter when they were not taking any money," says Pritchard. Pecorama still runs special events and this month attracted as many as 300 people a day, drawn by its light railway, Pullman carriage catering and gardens. Peco's remaining staff of 150 help out as and when needed.

Michael Pritchard, chairman of Peco,

Three years of group trading losses totalling about £1 million were halted in the year to this April after some "belt tightening". The £9 million turnover company managed an N-gauge-sized £25,000 profit. But hot weather does not encourage sales — train modelling is an indoor activity, best done in the cool of the autumn and winter, adding pressure to this year's more ambitious targets.

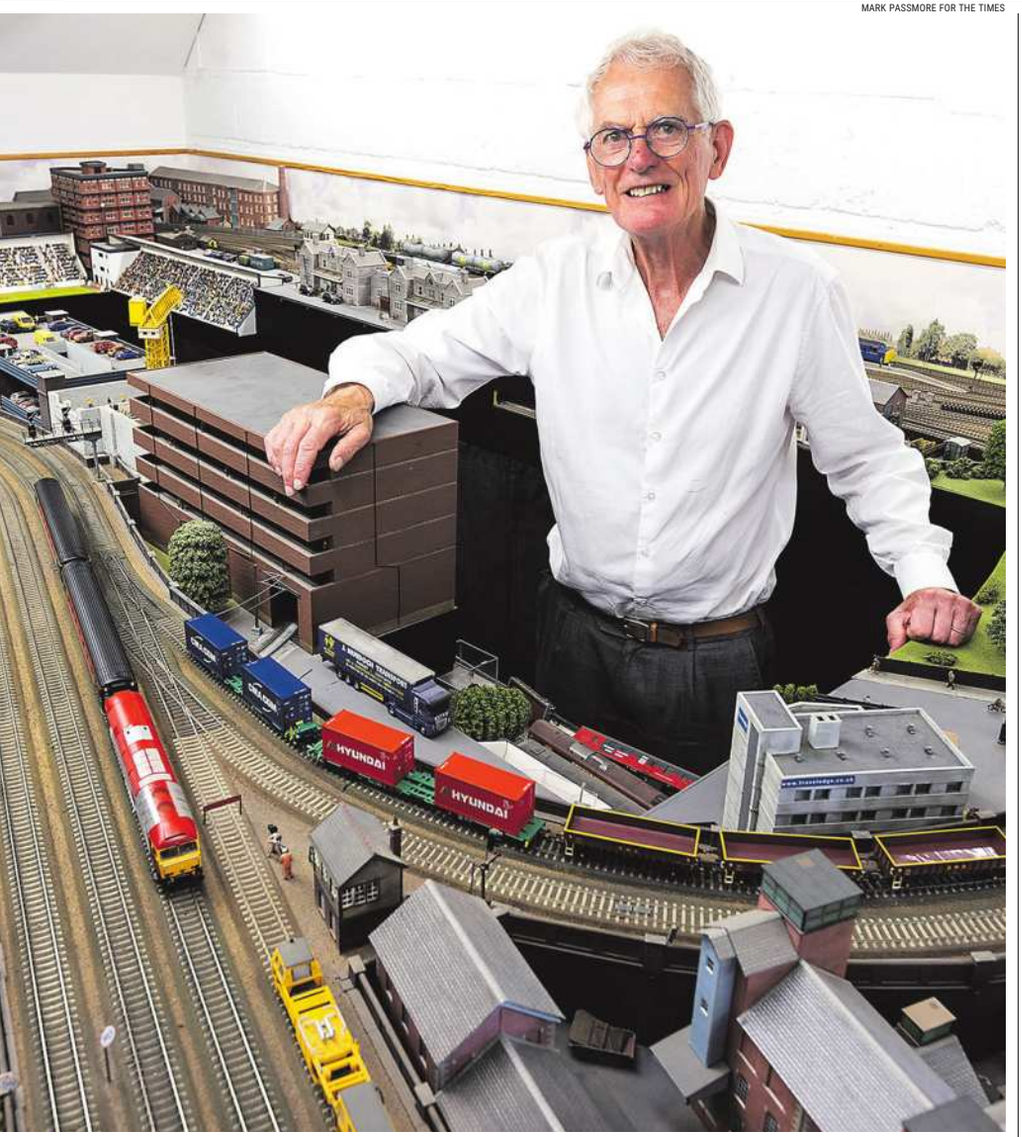
Despite these headwinds, the family, led by Pritchard and his two sisters, Hilary and Cherry, continue to invest. The company has about £4 million in cash reserves, built up during good times. Pritchard's 2011 A-class Mercedes sits in the car park, and the family have not taken a dividend since 2023.

To turn things around they have spent more than £1 million on the business. New finance and manufacturing software is now in place, helping to control costs. It selected the US company Epicor as a supplier after a rigorous process. While the integration was successful, it was not cheap. Taking into account the training and disruption, "you are

Account is subject to eligibility, credit check and T&Cs. *65% of accounts were opened within 24 hours (based on March–May 2026 data). Issued by HSBC UK Bank plc, 1 Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 1HQ, United Kingdom. ©HSBC Group 2026. All Rights Reserved. AC70502

CURRENT ACCOUNT SWITCH GUARANTEE

MARK PASSMORE FOR THE TIMES



is the son of the company's founder. It has customers in 47 countries, including the United States, Japan and Australia

talking probably three quarters of a million to a million pounds of investment to set the business up for the future", says Lane.

To add some more complexity into a business that produces thousands of tiny parts, Pritchard acquired a well-regarded model railway shop in Edinburgh called Harburn Hobbies last year. He didn't want it to close, knew the owners and did the deal over the phone, on trust. The only other shop Peco operates is at its head office, with the vast majority of its trade done through other independent retailers. It is not present on Amazon, and is wary of building its ecommerce operation as it wants its retail partners to thrive.

In a further twist, last year Peco discovered that its longtime rail supplier, Precision Shaped Wire (PSW), based near Batley, West Yorkshire, wanted to stop production. The news came as a shock. Another supplier quoted a price 400 times higher, knowing Peco was in a bind. With only two months to go Peco struck a deal with PSW to lease its unique machines, and one is now installed in the Peco factory in Beer. "We had to do something as rail is our most important product," says Lane. The move cost Peco £350,000 this year alone. "We have a year now to build our own machines," adds Pritchard.

The plan is to return the company to making annual profits of about £350,000 from this year so it can restore its cash reserves. "We will achieve that because our people are bought in," says Lane, confidently.

Peco came to be located on the hillside overlooking Beer after Sydney Pritchard decided in 1970 it had outgrown its premises in nearby Seaton. The land in Beer was owned by the local council and it offered it for sale, keen to attract the jobs. The remote location and sloping fields were initially off-putting, but when a local contractor agreed to level them for £500 the Pritchards took the plunge. It is one of the few remaining large manufacturers in the area, following the closure of sites run by the likes of Racal, CeramTec and Axminster Carpets.

The Peco factory hosts the latest high-precision robots from Japan alongside bespoke machines designed to make specific parts, whether they be small pieces of track, joining parts or wagons. The graphics for Wallace & Gromit-themed wagons are printed in a matter of minutes and to extraordinary detail. They will be sold from September under a two-year licence, agreed after Peco was introduced to the licensing rights team at Aardman Animations via the studio's head of estates, a railway modeller himself.

While the tenure of the team in Beer is impressive, Peco does battle to attract more young mechanical engineers into the business, partly due its location. To address this, the company is shifting some machinery to its second, smaller site in Buckfastleigh, 35 miles away, which is more accessible.

Lane admits the whole operation could be much more efficient if the business had relocated to new purpose-built facilities. But that is not the Pritchard way: the family has committed to its staff and the local community in Beer. "We have had these ups and downs before," says Pritchard. "I am sure the future is very bright."

About TEN

- See Times Entrepreneurs Network online for daily news, insights and inspiration for entrepreneurs and business leaders
- Sign up for the weekly Entrepreneurs newsletter to receive the inside track on key issues facing growing businesses, delivered to your inbox every Thursday morning

thetimes.com/ten

Judge AI by its usefulness, not how many use it

Farzana Rahman

When Andy Burnham abolished the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology last month it caused some concern in the tech and science communities. But artificial intelligence came out of the reshuffle better represented than before, with its own seat at the cabinet and Kanishka Narayan as the minister dedicated to it.

For anyone trying to get AI into the NHS, having it represented at the top of government is important. It gives the agenda priority and clout, both of which matter when you are trying to change how a system as large as ours works.

Around the same time, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), which is independent of government, set out how medical device rules should apply to ambient voice technology — the AI scribes that are becoming increasingly common in healthcare. They sit in on consultations between clinician and patient, drafting notes so the doctor can concentrate on the person in front of them. The MHRA has said that tools which only transcribe or summarise do not need regulatory clearance. Anything that strays into diagnosis or treatment stays regulated. Either way, the clinician remains accountable for what the AI produces.

> A confident wrong answer can do serious harm if a tired clinician waves it through

This is a good example of proportionate regulation done well and across the economy, regulators are being asked to show how they will actively support growth rather than simply mitigate risk. The Food Standards Agency has set out growth goals and others are following. This, together with a dedicated minister for AI, signals a pro-innovation direction of travel.

Getting the right balance between regulation and innovation is hard. The distinction the MHRA drew, between low risk and high stakes, is the right one. Taking administrative load off clinicians, who are a scarce resource, is a no-brainer: the gains are real and the risk to patients is low. Direct clinical care is a higher bar where oversight must be built in from the start.

However, as we rightly focus on innovation, there is a risk of measuring the wrong thing. When a technology gets its own minister, it is tempting to judge success by how much of it we adopt, rather than by what it actually does. In the case of healthcare, ministers will be asked how many hospitals are using AI, how many tools have been deployed and how we compare with other countries. Those are easy numbers to report and they will feel like progress. But these measures are not enough. Adoption is not the goal, what the technology delivers is. In healthcare, that has to mean better care for patients.

Take my own field, radiology. We are 30 per cent short of the radiologists we need, with the shortfall predicted to grow to 40 per cent by 2028. We can see the impact of this from waiting lists around the country, where patients are waiting weeks and sometimes months for the results of their scan. AI can genuinely help here, but it earns its place only to the degree that it actually solves the problem we're facing. The measure is not whether a hospital has bought a tool, it's whether patients get diagnosed more swiftly.

This is not an argument against AI, far from it. At Hexarad we use it every day and we've seen first-hand the impact it can have. The point is only that a seat at the cabinet table is a means, not an end.

Because the AI minister's brief spans the whole economy, the responsibility for AI in health will not be his alone. It falls just as much to the health secretary, Yvette Cooper. She should judge AI on outcomes rather than adoption, set a high bar for the care patients receive and hold every provider to it.

And holding providers to that bar cannot stop at outcomes. It must consider how those outcomes are produced. A tool that scores well in a test setting is not the same as one that is safe in clinical practice. Models that shine in one hospital can slip in another, on a different scanner and on a different mix of patients. A confident wrong answer can have a significant impact if a tired clinician is more likely to wave it through.

What guards against all of that is everything built around the model: the integration with existing systems, the monitoring that catches it when it drifts, the audit trail and adequate staff training. This surrounding infrastructure is not merely a box-ticking exercise. It is what turns an exciting piece of technology into something that actually solves a hard problem.

None of this is unique to healthcare. As we rightly focus on economic growth and innovation, we should be clear about the outcomes we are aiming for.

So my ask of the new government is straightforward. Use the seat AI now has in cabinet to focus on solving the problems we're facing across multiple sectors, including health. Measure success on the delivery of outcomes, not just adoption. Draw on the talent we have at our academic institutions and work with industry to accelerate innovation. Hold providers to account on the results they deliver and on how safely they deliver them. Get this right and the UK has a chance to lead in this space.

Dr Farzana Rahman is co-founder and chief executive of Hexarad, a radiology platform

Business

EQUITY PRICES

Dividend yields Please note dividend yields are supplied by ICE Data Services. The yield is the sum of a company's annual 12-month dividend payments divided by the last day's closing share price.
12-month high and low High/low prices for UK equities and investment trusts are based on intra-day figures.

Automobiles & Part

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
340.13	Aston Martin Lag	33½	- ¾	...	-0.7

Banking & Finance

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
4,642.36	**Aberdeen Group‡**	252¼	+ 9⅜	5.8	11.7
2.16	Acuity RM♦	0¾	+ ⅛	...	-3.5
12,325.70	**Admiral**	4024	+ 48	3.6	16.3
2,415.47	AJ Bell	614	+ 3	2.4	23.9
55,690.60	AON Corp	26253⅝	+ 293	0.9	...
131.78	Arbuthnot♦‡	795	- 5	6.9	7.3
1,599.39	Ashmore Group	224⅜	- 1¾	7.5	18.4
58,637.30	Australia & NZ	1944¼	- 8⅛	5.9	18.9
21,922.60	**Aviva**	730⅜	+ 13¼	5.5	27.2
162,507.00	Banco Santander	1082	+ 4	1.5	13.9
66,828.50	**Barclays‡**	496⅝	+ 4	2.3	11.3
2.68	Blue Star Capital♦	5¼	- ¼	...	-2.7
243.58	BP Marsh & Ptnrs♦	680	+ 4	5.3	5.1
2,877.14	Bridgepoint Grp	322⅝	+ 1⅝	2.9	64.5
871.23	Chesnara	376	+ 50	6.1	-74.5
248.83	City of London Grp	491	+ 1	6.7	16.6
621.85	Close Bros	412⅝	- 15⅝	...	-6.2
2,048.25	CMC Markets	732	- 11	1.9	26.6
56,928.20	Deutsche Bank	2979⅝	+ 208	2.9	11.0
1,057.79	EFG-Hermes Hldgs	73⅝	+ ¼	0.9	...
51.68	EPE Special Opps♦	211		...	8.7
7.99	Fiske♦	67½		1.7	5.9
87.74	Foresight Ventures VCT	83		4.3	15.5
1,474.21	Georgia Capital	4400	+ 20	...	2.7
72.91	Hansard Global	53	+ 2	8.4	40.8
158.57	Helios U/W♦	227½	+ 3	4.4	7.8
5,880.10	**Hiscox‡**	1842	+ 47	2.1	13.8
262,376.00	**HSBC‡**	1528⅜	+ 10	3.6	17.1
4,652.70	**IG Group‡**	1400	+ 66	3.0	9.7
144.32	Impax Asset Mgmt♦	113⅝	- 2⅜	8.8	7.1
5,595.34	**ICG**	2022	+ 6	4.3	12.1
2,506.30	Intl Public P'ship‡	140	- ¾	6.3	-10.3
4,615.03	**Investec‡**	663	+ 26	5.8	8.6
10.47	Investment Co	77½	+ 1¼	...	...
641.37	IP Group	72⅝	+ 1¾	1.7	10.0
3.13	Jarvis Securities♦	7	- 1	50.0	2.2
878.78	Jupiter Fund Mgmt‡	170¼	+ 7	3.5	8.9
1,503.10	Lancashire Hldgs‡	616	+ 7½	2.7	6.9
16,154.40	**Legal & General‡**	293⅜	+ 9⅜	7.5	29.4
5,780.06	**Lion Finance Group**	13420	+ 330	2.4	9.4
199.93	Liontrust Asset Mgmt	317½	+ 7	6.0	20.6
61.84	Livermore Invs Grp♦	37⅜		8.3	16.9
63,765.20	**Lloyds Banking‡**	110	- 1¼	3.6	15.7
12.59	LMS Capital	15⅝		25.6	...
43,707.10	**London Stock Exchange‡**	9000	+ 398	1.8	37.8
8,459.22	**M&G**	351	+ 4½	5.8	27.9
3,531.63	Man Group‡	309	+ 5¼	4.1	27.2
31.25	Manx Financial Grp♦	25	- ½	2.1	4.6
12.86	Marechale Capital♦	5	- ⅛	...	-6.1
1,165.36	Metro Bank	173	+ 2¾	...	22.2
63,184.20	National Australia	2026⅞	+ 19¾	4.4	17.3
54,030.20	**NatWest Group‡**	679⅜	- 4⅜	5.2	12.7
374.40	PayPoint‡	632	+ 4	6.3	10.7
25,420.40	**Prudential**	1018	- 10	2.0	9.0
5.23	Quantum Blockchain♦	0⅜		...	-1.8
2,652.43	Quilter‡	194⅛	+ ⅜	3.3	21.8
1,549.19	Rathbones Group	1712	+ 8	5.8	15.9
201.53	Rockwood Strategic	323	- 1½	...	0.0
243.01	S & U	2000	+ 50	5.8	10.2
14.12	Sancus Lending♦	1¼	+ ⅛	...	8.1
214.96	Schroder REIT‡	44		8.2	...
9,406.55	**Schroders**	584		3.8	17.1
6,091.17	**St James's Place‡**	1186	- 2	1.5	11.9
47,562.40	**Standard Chart'd‡**	2177	+ 15	2.3	15.1
9,464.26	**Standard Life**	940	+ 19½	5.9	-199.6
32,262.00	Sun Life Canada‡	5793½	- 4⅜	3.5	...
14.66	Tavistock Invs♦	3	+ ⅛	3.4	2.5
2,814.20	TBC Bank Grp‡	5050	+ 280	5.1	7.1
9.92	Tern♦	1⅛	- ⅛	...	-1.3
53.10	Time Finance♦	57⅜	- ⅛	...	9.1
4.16	Tooru♦	0¼		...	-1.8
2.55	Truetide♦	3¼		...	-5.8
206.73	Vanquis Banking Gp	80⅝	+ 3¼	...	25.2
47.08	Volvere♦	2150	+ 80	...	11.4
192,273.00	Wells Fargo‡	6358¼	+ 204⅝	2.3	...
61,376.00	Westpac Bkg Corp	1794½	+ 15⅝	4.5	16.9
9.51	Worsley Investors	28¼	- ¼	...	...
81,973.10	Zurich Insurance	54206	+ 506⅛	5.1	18.6

Construction & Property

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
82.20	Alumasc♦	227½	- 2½	4.9	8.8
14.94	Aseana Properties	5⅛		...	1.3
7.58	Built Cybernetics♦	1⅞	+ ⅛	...	-190.0
4,214.52	Balfour Beatty	884½	- ½	1.6	16.8
4,445.15	**Barratt Redrow**	318¼	+ 5¾	5.4	23.4
2,432.43	Bellway	2160	+ 46	3.3	16.3
3,259.80	Berkeley	3570	+ 16	...	10.8
1,727.96	Big Yellow Grp	877½	- 23	5.4	...
54.67	Billington Hldgs♦	410	+ 5	2.7	39.4
196.51	Boot (Henry)	146	- 9	5.4	8.3
1,232.17	Breedon	355	- 5¼	4.3	14.7
4,368.28	**British Land**	426¼	- 2⅝	5.4	...
27.15	Cardiff Property	2750		1.1	20.7
2,255.38	Derwent London	2048	- 4	4.0	...
43.42	DCI Advisors♦	4¾	+ ⅛	...	-2.8
19.96	First Property♦‡	13½	+ ¼	1.9	7.5
4.36	Fletcher King♦	42½		5.3	28.7
113.58	Foxtons Group‡	38⅜	+ 1⅞	3.0	8.9
613.57	Galliford Try Hldgs	608		3.3	18.0
696.26	Genuit Group‡	276	- 7	4.7	15.2
163.01	Gleeson (MJ)	279	+ 5	3.9	10.3
1,948.80	Grafton Grp Units	1041¾	+ 9¼	3.6	14.8
1,288.17	Grainger	173¾	- 4⅞	4.8	6.3
1,371.29	Great Portland Est	337⅝	- 10	2.4	0.0
2,208.58	Hammerson	377⅜	- ⅝	4.8	...
578.06	Harworth Group	176¾	- 4	1.0	61.0
6.21	Heath (Samuel)♦‡	245		5.3	30.6
230.69	Helical	200	- 1	1.3	41.4
350.58	Ibstock‡	88¾	+ 2¾	2.3	...
567.99	James Halstead♦	136⅜	- 2¼	6.5	14.1
2,083.39	Keller‡	3020	+ 136	2.7	14.9
15,765.60	Kingspan Group	8740¾		0.6	27.6
5,114.76	**Land Securities**	686½	- ½	6.0	...
4,443.36	**LondonMetric Prop‡**	189	- 4	6.6	...
2.97	Macau Prop Opp Fd	4¾	- ⅝	...	-0.3
421.45	Marshalls	166⅝	- 1	4.2	29.2
68.47	Michelmersh Brick♦	74½	- 1½	6.2	18.5
2.24	Mindflair♦	0⅜		...	-1.3
2,137.87	Morgan Sindall	4400	+ 26	3.7	11.8
341.16	Mountview Estates	8750	+ 50	6.0	16.8
353.16	NewRiver REIT	81¼	- ⅜	8.2	...
30.03	Palace Capital	189	+ 7	7.9	42.0
50.18	Panther Securities♦	290	- 6	4.1	11.8
3,786.17	**Persimmon**	1178½	+ 27	5.1	13.2
0.99	Plaza Centers	14½		...	-0.1
2,479.67	Primary Health Props	95½	- ¾	7.6	...
54.55	Real Estate Inv♦	31¼		4.8	-62.4
1,284.72	Safestore	588	- 15	5.2	...
1,862.00	Savills‡	1070	+ 24	2.2	20.6
0.65	Secure Prop Dev & Inv♦	0½		...	-0.1
13,015.70	**Segro‡**	961¼	+ 3¾	3.3	...
2,885.04	Shaftesbury Capital‡	147¼	- 3¾	2.9	7.9
111.42	SIG	9⅜	+ ⅝	...	-1.7
1,404.72	SigmaRoc♦	126	- 4	...	17.3
1,559.76	Sirius Real Estate	98	+ 1⅝	5.6	7.6
44.51	Smart (J)	115		2.8	8.8
47.09	Steppe Cement♦	21½		...	19.3
2,962.60	Taylor Wimpey	85⅛	+ 2¼	4.9	30.4
53.97	Town Centre	128	- 1½	3.9	...
1,384.50	Travis Perkins	651½	+ 3	1.8	-7.8
4,608.53	**Tritax Big Box‡**	157⅜	- 1	5.2	...
2,624.25	Unite Group	510½	- 17½	7.4	...
961.62	Vistry Group	302⅝	+ 38¼	...	7.2
728.30	Workspace Group	378	+ 17	6.9	...
24.40	Wynnstay Props♦	905	- 10	3.1	12.6

Consumer Goods

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
782.50	AEP Plantations	205	+ 12⅝	3.0	12.0
11.17	Airea♦	27	+ ½	3.7	10.6
14,424.50	**AB Foods**	2052	- 9	3.1	14.5
667.69	Barr (AG)	596	- 8	3.1	14.1
89,200.20	**British Amer Tob**	4129	- 2	5.9	11.8
3,913.36	**Burberry Group**	1084	+ 14½	...	...
354.63	C&C Group	95¾	+ 4¾	5.1	...
19.45	Capital Metals♦	4	- ¼	...	-33.5
40.69	Churchill China♦	370	- 30	5.7	9.3
16,656.00	**Coca-Cola HBC**	4570	+ 26	2.2	20.6
72.85	Colefax♦	1440		0.4	10.2
2,927.10	Cranswick‡	5390	+ 30	2.1	18.2
38,052.60	**Diageo**	1709	- 10	2.2	29.7
1.02	Distil♦	0		...	-0.5
936.97	Evans (M.P.)♦	1798	+ 48	3.3	11.1
75.10	Fevara	145		1.7	6.3
6,086.86	**Games Workshop‡**	18420	- 240	3.1	29.5
4,581.52	Glanbia‡	1917⅝	- 18⅝	2.0	35.6
2,144.75	Greencore	266¾	+ ⅝	1.0	20.2
8.49	Headlam	10½	+ 1⅝	...	-0.1
572.12	Hilton Food	636	+ 20	5.5	7.2
19,316.30	**Imperial Brands‡**	2527	+ 24	6.6	10.1
11,653.70	Kerry Group	7362⅜	+ 439⅞	1.7	21.5
357.52	McBride	206	+ 42¼	1.5	10.6
176.44	Mulberry Group♦	250	+ 25	...	-19.2
416.95	Nichols♦‡	1140	+ 25	3.4	19.4
294.19	Norcros	326	+ 2	3.5	...
411.92	Origin Ents♦	382½		3.9	9.0
0.22	PACSCo♦	0¼	- ⅛	...	-0.0
27.13	Portmeirion♦	53		...	-1.2
24.63	Provexis♦	1	- ⅛	...	-52.5
444.16	PZ Cussons	103⅝	- ¼	3.6	22.0
48.65	REA	111	+ 2	...	-215.3
9.93	Tandem♦	180	- 6	1.7	11.6
54.63	The Character Grp♦	315		2.2	-46.7
2.68	Ukrproduct Grp♦	6¾	- ¾	...	-15.7
102,891.00	**Unilever‡**	4776	+ 95	3.5	12.9
65.97	Victoria♦	57	+ 2½	...	-0.2

Engineering

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.41	Assoc Brit Eng	20		...	-6.9
560.99	Avon Technologies‡	1854	+ 30	1.0	72.1
5,197.91	**Babcock‡**	1056½	- 48	0.7	25.1
61,373.60	**BAE Systems**	2044	- 82	1.8	29.7
12.00	Braime A N/V♦	1250	+ 50	1.3	6.6
11.28	Braime Group♦	2350		0.7	12.5
13.63	Caffyns	500	+ 50	2.0	-12.3
9.67	Cap XX Ld♦	0⅛		...	-3.4
133.96	Castings	308	+ 5	6.0	17.7
21.60	Checkit♦	20		...	-7.7
1,498.06	Chemring Group‡	550½	- 20	1.5	30.9
14.50	Chesterfield Spec Cyl♦	37½	+ 2½	...	-41.7
576.92	Cohort♦‡	1226	- 8	1.5	23.5
223.85	Dialight	554	+ 23	...	...
3.00	Feedback♦	6⅞		...	-0.3
331.19	Gooch & Housego♦	1210	+ 5	1.1	88.3
1,386.27	Goodwin	18460	- 260	1.8	25.0
13,788.70	**Halma**	3632	+ 122	0.7	36.8
2,347.48	Hill & Smith	2995	+ 95	...	29.2
3.56	Image Scan♦	2⅝		...	-12.4
7,416.99	**IMI‡**	3112	+ 58	1.1	25.0
268.09	Judges Sci.♦	4025	+ 125	2.9	48.7
10.47	LPA♦	77½		...	-29.4
6,419.89	**Melrose‡**	515¼	+ 44⅞	1.5	17.8
666.79	Morgan Advanced	241	+ 7½	5.1	32.1
103.00	Mpac♦	342½	+ 12½	...	-10.8
278.69	MS Intl♦‡	1695	+ 105	1.5	25.1
1,560.30	Oxford Instruments	2840	- 6	0.8	33.6
19,378.40	Phillips Elec	1971⅝	- 52⅛	3.7	-46.1
0.69	PipeHawk♦	1⅞		...	-2.7
3,715.86	Renishaw	5105	+ 5	1.5	44.3
127,279.00	**Rolls-Royce‡**	1530¼	+ 28	0.7	22.0
3,963.06	Rotork‡	485	- ¾	1.7	35.1
95.16	SDI Group♦	91	+ 2	...	19.4
1,235.19	Senior	294½		0.7	-288.7
9,118.41	SKF Group	2138¼		2.8	32.2
7,632.11	**Smiths**	2612	+ 12	1.8	30.5
106.94	Solid State♦	188½	- 6½	1.5	26.2
125.56	Somero Enter♦	242½	+ ½	3.1	17.3
5,249.03	**Spirax Group**	7110	+ 50	2.4	32.1
6.92	Tanfield♦	4¼	- ¼	...	-4.1
291.36	Thorpe FW♦	260	+ 1	2.8	12.0
6.93	Transense Tech♦	45½	- 2	...	4.9
964.39	Vesuvius	388⅝	+ 8	6.1	18.4
1,138.43	Volex‡	624	+ 79	0.8	24.1
7,388.56	**Weir**	2846	+ 30	1.5	29.7
500.65	XP Power	1786	+ 22	...	-42.5

Health

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
619.28	Advanced Medical♦	282	+ ½	1.0	61.0
360.95	Allergy Therapeutics♦	5¾	+ ⅝	...	-6.8
14.21	CelLBxHealth♦	1¼		...	-0.2
107.41	Anpario♦	536	+ 18	2.3	13.3
185,659.00	**AstraZeneca‡**	11970	- 270	2.0	24.6
4.40	Cambridge Nutri Sci♦	1⅞		...	2.6
4,420.84	**Convatec‡**	227⅞	+ 1⅝	2.5	35.9
15.08	Potter & Moore♦‡	22		2.5	7.2
66.74	Eco Animal Health♦	98½	- 2½	...	30.2
108.35	EKF Diagnostics♦	25¼	- ⅛	...	53.8
2.21	Futura Medical♦	0⅜		...	-0.1
1,562.38	Genus	2348	+ 66	1.4	80.1
74,981.70	**GSK‡**	1853½	- 65	3.8	13.1
1.45	Gunsynd♦	0⅛		...	-2.1
32,388.80	**Haleon‡**	368¼	+ 5⅛	2.0	19.8
3,373.36	Hikma Pharma‡	1616	- 20	3.9	12.1
1,578.93	Hutchmed China♦	181	- 3	...	4.6
21.84	ImmuPharma♦	3½	- ½	...	-9.5
16.59	Inspiration Health♦	18½		...	-15.9
16.97	IXICO♦	7¾	+ ¼	...	-4.2
11.54	Thalia Therapeutics♦	0⅝		...	-3.9
286.19	NIOX Group♦	68	- ⅝	2.3	40.2
CHF235.19bn	Novartis	CHF127.42	- 3.68	3.0	41.1
634.31	Oxford Biomedica	524	- 2	...	-19.5
2.33	Physiomics♦	0½		...	-3.0
5.44	Proteome Sciences♦	1½		...	-1.5
32,572.60	**Reckitt Benck‡**	5132	- 10	4.2	11.0
17.07	RUA Life Sci♦	27½	+ 1½	...	-118.0
46.70	Sareum Holdings♦	33½	+ 5½	...	-14.0
8,897.56	**Smith & Neph**	1062½	- 7	2.8	20.0
946.49	Spire Healthcare	235		0.6	57.3
4.99	Talisman Metals♦	7		...	2.0
2.05	ValiRx♦	0⅛		...	-0.3

Industrials

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
176.13	Accsys Tech♦	71⅜	+ 1⅜	...	31.2
39,907.90	BASF	4471⅜	+ 25⅝	4.3	28.7
40,975.70	Bayer	4170⅞	+ 74⅜	0.2	-13.2
1,556.91	Coats Group	81¼	+ 1¼	3.0	18.7
4,829.99	**Croda‡**	3459	+ 26	3.2	77.9
49.69	Cropper (James)♦	520	+ 75	...	16.9
988.07	Elementis‡	174¼	- 5	1.9	-30.3
72.11	Hardide♦	91½	- 6	...	...
15,410.50	International Paper‡	2910	- 105	4.7	-7.3
2,870.64	Johnson Matthey‡	2276	+ 2	4.5	-29.8
3,841.17	Mondi‡	870¼	+ 12¼	1.4	27.2
21.36	Robinson♦	127½	+ 2½	4.7	9.4
7,685.72	Swire Pacific	986⅝	+ 1¾	3.8	48.4
16.55	Symphony Enviro♦	7	- 1	...	-6.5
161.37	Synthomer	98⅜	- 1⅝	...	-1.0
42,819.50	Takeda Pharma	2672¾	+ 11⅜	3.5	-59.9
732.98	Victrex	841	+ 28	7.1	26.3
83.49	Wynnstay♦	361	- 14	5.0	36.5
221.17	Zotefoams	445½	+ 10½	1.8	9.6

Leisure

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
100.51	Accesso Tech♦	302	- 1½	...	14.7
175.92	Celtic♦	185	- 14	...	5.2
817.46	Domino's Pizza‡	212⅜	+ 6⅝	5.4	14.1
3,284.01	**Entain‡**	513¼	- 24⅜	3.9	-4.9
202.23	Evoke	44⅞	- ⅛	...	-0.4
79.57	Gaming Realms♦	29½	- ⅞	...	14.5
5.63	Heavitree♦	305	+ 5	2.2	5.6
6.21	Heavitree A♦	195		3.4	3.6
$23.95bn	**InterCont'l Hotels‡**	$159.45	+ 3.20	1.2	33.1
1,689.06	Mitch & Butlers	281½	- ½	...	9.5
277.78	On The Beach	194⅜	+ 5	2.1	35.3
483.42	Rank Group	103¼	- 8¼	3.4	16.1
1,521.51	SSP	201		2.2	-21.6
8.37	Bow Street Group♦	0⅜		...	-0.3
902.82	Wetherspoon JD	851½	+ 12½	1.4	14.2
4,124.76	**Whitbread**	2459	+ 35	3.9	19.9

Media

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
6.04	Aeorema Comms♦	64½		4.1	51.2
16.82	Altitude Group♦	23		...	-92.0
10.50	Arcontech Group♦	78½	- 1	5.1	11.1
4,105.43	**Autotrader‡**	528	- 18¾	2.2	15.5
524.74	Bloomsbury Pub	643	- 11	2.5	19.4
2.39	Caledonian Hldgs♦	1¼		...	-0.1
8.86	Catalyst Media♦	42½		...	23.1
1.86	Catenai♦	0⅛		...	-2.6
13.24	Ebiquity♦	9⅜	+ ⅛	...	-0.9
277.20	Future	309⅜	+ 8	5.5	4.9
594.58	GlobalData	84	- ¼	1.8	19.1
91.74	IG Design Group♦	97½	- 4	1.0	-0.8
11,330.70	**Informa‡**	901⅜	+ ⅝	2.5	...
2,663.81	ITV	71	- ⅞	7.0	12.0
486.29	ME Group	129¾	+ 8¾	6.5	8.7
1.64	Mediazest♦	0⅛		...	13.8
19.09	Mission Group♦	21		...	-1.0
1,042.05	Mony Group‡	203⅝	- 3⅜	6.2	13.3
8,243.06	News Corp A	2286½	+ 73¾	0.6	...
4,656.54	News Corp B	2579⅛	+ 55	0.6	...
324.38	Next 15 Group♦	317½	- 1	4.8	-10.6
7,418.26	**Pearson‡**	1233½	+ 38	2.1	24.0
4.22	Primorus Inv♦	3⅜		...	5.0
136.57	Reach‡	42⅞	- ⅛	13.8	-1.0
9.45	React♦	40	- 2½	...	-27.6
46,694.80	**Relx‡**	2672	+ 60	2.6	23.7
3,758.03	Rightmove	510¼	- ⅝	2.1	18.2
2.70	SpaceandPeople♦	135		...	6.2
52.33	STV Group	112	+ 4¾	...	-10.4
42.51	System1 Group♦	335	+ 5	1.8	32.2
9,750.71	21st Cent Fox A	4890		0.9	...
7,391.28	21st Cent Fox B	3355⅞		1.3	...
242.08	Wilmington	270	- 8	4.3	21.0
4,127.50	WPP	382⅝	- 4¼	3.9	7.6
16.87	Zinc Media♦	56½		...	-5.5

Natural Resources

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.60	ADM Energy#	0		...	1.2
122.10	H-Power♦	10¾	- ½	...	-4.5
201.40	Afentra♦	73¼	- 5¼	...	-71.0
2.86	Arkadian Strat Metals♦	0		...	-0.9
10.63	Alien Metals♦	0⅛		...	-15.0
73.84	Aminex	1⅝	+ ¼	...	-18.7
17,954.70	Anglo Amer Plat	6767⅞	- 72¾	6.8	25.2
50,291.00	**Anglo Amer‡**	4269	+ 202	0.7	-17.5
487.14	Anglo Asian Mng♦	425	+ 20	0.7	37.2
39,818.80	**Antofagasta**	4039	+ 134	1.4	40.7
17.83	Arc Minerals♦	0¾	+ ⅛	...	-1.5
40.36	Ariana Resources♦	1½		...	-150.0
11.17	Arkle Resources♦	0¾		...	-10.2
54.30	Asiamet Resources♦	1⅝		...	-13.6
1,705.19	Atalaya Mine	1109	+ 109	0.9	21.3
4.06	Beacon Energy♦	3¼	+ ⅛	...	-0.8
6.79	Beowulf Mining♦	10½		...	-3.1

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	53559.99 (-9.45)
Nasdaq	26402.42 (-138.93)
S&P 500	7711.76 (-19.23)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	66405.56 (+273.58)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	25584.79 (+19.05)
Amsterdam	
Amsterdam AEX	1112.28 (+8.90)
Sydney	
Australia AO	9294.30 (+51.10)
Frankfurt	
DAX	26569.99 (+202.75)
Singapore	
Singapore Straits	5699.93 (+15.81)
Brussels	
Brussels BEL20	5869.08 (+30.41)
Paris	
Paris CAC	8401.18 (+81.31)
Zurich	
Zurich SMI	14399.77 (+15.40)
Zurich DJ Euro Stoxx 50	6485.67 (+60.94)
London	
FTSE100	10824.26 (+31.72)
FTSE250	24938.79 (+39.93)
FTSE350	5906.53 (+16.44)
FTSE Eurotop 100	5060.82 (+30.67)
FTSE All Share	5842.37 (+16.28)
FTSE Non Financials	6403.17 (+2.63)
TechMark Focus	9629.89 (-68.15)
US$	1.3575 (-0.0008)
Euro	1.1681 (+0.0018)
SDR	0.9909 (+0.0005)
CPI Jul (2015=100)	142.9
RPI Jul (1987=100)	419.1
RPIX Jul (1987=100)	412.2

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	26-Sep	86.26	86.37	86.22	86.22	5645	8744
	26-Dec	86.23	86.57	86.08	86.14	228360	1275627
	27-Mar				86.12	1	1
3-Mth Sonia Index	26-Jun	96.2525	96.255	96.2525	96.2525	2635	389136
	26-Sep	96.17	96.175	96.155	96.16	85259	442491
	26-Dec	95.935	95.945	95.9	95.905	111955	595267
	27-Mar	95.755	95.77	95.705	95.71	80273	400211
3 Mth Sonia Index	27-Jun	95.66	95.685	95.6	95.61	77573	380250
	27-Sep	95.64	95.66	95.575	95.585	79713	256961
	27-Dec	95.655	95.675	95.59	95.605	71358	300541
3-Mth Euribor	26-Sep	97.38	97.39	97.375	97.38	136005	631705
	26-Dec	97.2	97.215	97.185	97.19	232264	962854
	27-Mar	97.07	97.095	97.035	97.05	169630	484295
	27-Jun	97	97.03	96.955	96.97	162202	515926
	27-Sep	96.985	97.01	96.93	96.945	158035	454760
3-Mth Saron Index	26-Jun	100.05	100.05	100.0475	100.05	51	69201
	26-Sep	100.05	100.055	100.045	100.05	3330	68188
	26-Dec	100.01	100.015	100	100.005	6413	52099
	27-Mar	99.94	99.945	99.925	99.93	7010	39734
	27-Jun	99.855	99.855	99.83	99.835	6144	30258
	27-Sep	99.77	99.775	99.735	99.745	4151	27591
	27-Dec	99.695	99.7	99.655	99.665	3190	21754
FTSE100	26-Sep	10801	10868.5	10801	10836	46250	474188
	26-Dec	10910	10910	10910	10903.5	1	1471
FTSEurofirst 80	26-Sep				8745.2	0	
	26-Dec				8790.9	0	

© 2021 Tradeweb Markets LLC. All rights reserved.re-distributed; The Tradeweb FTSE Gilt Closing Prices information contained herein is proprietary to Tradeweb; may not be copied or is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely; and does not constitute investment advice. Tradeweb is not responsible for any loss or damage that might result from the use of this information.

Commodities

Natural Gas $

2.866 -0.048

Light Crude Oil

83.13 -0.4

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

WTI NOV 26	81.62 -0.35
WTI DEC 26	79.75 -0.36
WTI JAN 27	78 -0.33
WTI FEB 27	76.17 -0.59
WTI MAR 27	74.93 -0.57

Products

Fuel Oil	492.956	-0.282
Euro Naphtha	745.454	1.027

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Sep1276.25-1275.75	Jan1081.5-1081.25
Oct1223.75-1223.25	Feb1053.25-1053
Nov1168.75-1168.25	
Dec1118.25-1117.75	Volume: 177574

Brent

Oct 89.33-89.3	Jan83.94-83.92
Nov88.08-88.07	Feb82.28-82.25
Dec85.98-85.96	Volume: 483667

Cocoa

Sep4760 +372	Sep4864 +324
Dec4841 +356	Dec4694 +246
Mar4964 +355	Mar4981 +372
May4960 +347	May4980 +367
Jul 4954 +351	Volume: 81284

Robusta Coffee

Sep 3518	May3494 -14
Nov 3534 -21	Jul 3499 +5
Jan 3525 -16	
May 3494 -14	Volume: 36253

White Sugar

Oct509.6 -14.7	Aug515.1 -9.8
Dec519.4 -9.4	Oct512.7 -5.5
May522.8 -9.4	
May522.8 -9.4	Volume: 65530

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Nov215 +2.5	May221.5 +3.5
Jan 214	Jul 220
Mar 216	Volume: 19815

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Wkly Yld%	P/E
31,27	Bezant Resources♦	0½		...	11,3
180,133.00	BHP Group	3543	+ 18	3,6	24,8
105,81	Border & Sthn Pet♦	12	+ 1¼	...	-101,8
32,91	Bougainville	8¼	– ¼	...	-12,3
80,798.00	**BP**‡	514½	– 35	4,8	...
2,32	Buccaneer Energy♦	0		...	-0,7
25,47	Cadence Minerals♦	5⅞	– ⅛	...	-11,2
9,42	Cadogan Energy	3¼		...	-11,3
367,37	Caledonia Mining♦‡	1900	+ 20	2,2	9,1
44,77	Caspian Sunrise‡	1⅞		...	3,5
316,33	Cent Asia Metals♦	178	+ 22	8,7	-5,7
48,75	Chariot Ltd♦	1¼	+ ¼	...	...
1,52	Clontarf Energy♦	0		...	-6,2
38,60	Corcel♦	0⅝		...	-2,4
9,11	Crism Therapeutics♦	11½	+ ¼	...	-2,3
1,876,83	DRD Gold	216¾	– 6¼	3,6	18,2
6,98	ECR Minerals♦	0⅛		...	-2,8
3,15	Empyrean Energy♦	0		...	-0,4
11,457,90	**Endeavour**	4742	+ 62	2,8	23,0
469,06	EnQuest	25½	– 1⅛	3,2	...
64,93	Eurasia Mining♦	2¼	– ⅛	...	14,7
23,70	Europa Oil & Gas♦	1¾		...	-9,0
170,95	Ferrexpo♯	28⅛		...	-4,6
23,359,50	**Fresnillo**‡	3170	– 49	3,5	22,9
217,55	Galantas Gold♦	34½	+ 7½	...	-9,4
52,77	GCM Resources♦	14	– 3	...	-20,0
7,74	Gem Diamonds	5½	+ 1⅜	...	-0,1
5,04	Getech♦	3¼		...	-7,9
69,911,40	**Glencore**‡	595½	– 1¼	2,1	...
5,57	Geo Exploration♯	0⅛		...	-4,3
31,517,70	Gold Fields	3521½	+ 44½	4,5	...
31,35	Goldplat♦‡	18¼	+ ½	3,7	30,4
9,23	Goldstone Res♦	0½	– ⅛	...	-0,7
4,513,52	Greatland Resources♦	669	– 45½	...	9,8
502,54	Griffin Mining♦	290	+ 8	...	32,5
417,68	Gulf Keystone	192	+ 9¼	4,0	37,4
3,434,01	Hochschild	667½	+ 27½	1,0	23,2
621,25	Hunting	408½	+ 3½	2,5	21,2
4,97	Ironveld♦	0		...	-2,4
728,74	ITM Power♦	105⅜	– 2⅛	...	-14,2
86,22	Jubilee Metals♦	2½		...	-3,5
1,33	Karel Diamond Res♦	0⅝		...	-3,9
168,57	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	1¼		...	-11,1
169,53	Kenmare Res	190	– 20	...	-0,7
7,91	Landore Res♦	2¼	+ ⅛	...	-2,1
2,11	Lansdowne Resources♦	0⅛		...	-1,3
12,79	Lexington Gold♦	2¼	– ¼	...	-28,2
503,45	Metals Exploration♦	16½	+ 1	...	21,3
3,06	Nativo Resources♦	0¼		...	-0,2
1,24	Nostrum Oil & Gas	0⅜		...	-0,0
15,91	Oriole Resources♦	0⅜		...	-16,2
	Ormonde Mining			...	...
64,41	Orosur Mining♦	16⅛	– ⅛	...	...
3,320,69	Pan African Res	136¼	+ ¼	1,6	25,8
164,16	Pantheon Res♦	11¼	– 2¼	...	-40,2
24,59	Parkmead Group♦	22½		...	3,3
21,99	Petra Diamonds	6¼	+ ½	...	-0,2
1,97	Petrel Resources♦	1	+ ⅛	...	-4,4
19,05	Petro Matad♦	1		...	-4,6
6,56	Plexus Holdings♦	3¼		...	-1,4
388,72	Porvair	834	– 18	0,8	21,2
16,48	Prospex Energy♦	3¾	+ ¼	...	-5,7
21,62	Quadrise♦	1		...	-5,9
8,92	Reabold Resources♦	61½		...	-768,8
1,98	Red Rock Res♦	0		...	-0,3
35,041,70	Rio Tinto Ltd‡	9424¾	+ 202½	3,6	18,0
96,320,50	**Rio Tinto**‡	7674	+ 26	4,5	17,0
22,26	Rome Resources♦	0¼		...	-14,2
244,19	Serabi Gold♦	320		1,6	6,1
1,002,22	Serica Energy♦	255	– 3½	6,3	-26,6
185,002.00	**Shell**‡	3344½	– 65	4,5	15,0
4,82	Shuka Minerals♦	3⅜	+ ¼	...	-2,5
3,89	Sound Energy♦	1¾	– ⅛	...	-1,5
42,48	Star Energy♦	22		...	-3,9
13,24	Sunda Energy♦	2⅞	+ ¾	...	-2,9
1,88	Sunrise Resources♦	0		...	-3,3
1,79	Synergia Energy♦	0		...	0,5
5,01	Tertiary Minerals♦	0½		...	-7,0
5,67	Thor Energy♦	0½		...	-0,6
145,853.00	Total Eng SE	6392⅜	– 242½	4,7	12,6
7,00	Tower Resources♦	0		...	-0,4
310,58	Tullow Oil	20½	+ ⅛	...	69,6
3,83	UK Oil & Gas♦	0		...	-0,2
3,93	URU Metals♦	4	+ ⅛	...	-2,7
70,28	Vast Resources♦	4¼	– ⅛	...	-0,7
4,68	Westmount Energy♦	3½	+ ⅛	...	-8,6
11,90	Xtract Resources♦	1	– ¼	...	-4,3
63,02	Zephyr Energy♦	3		...	-7,0

Professional & Support Services

1,262,13	4imprint‡	4480	– 112	4,0	15,0
240,69	Andrews Sykes♦	575	– 22½	4,5	13,3
175,90	BTG Consulting♦	109		4,2	20,6
9,054,48	**Bunzl**	2792	+ 38	2,7	19,8
338,93	Capita	280½	– ½	...	-1,9
8,51	CEPS♦	40½	+ ½	...	-11,5
43,11	Christie Group♦	162½	+ 11	2,2	32,0
38,394,50	**Compass**	2257⅞	– 12½	2,2	27,8
9,67	Croma Security♦	70		3,4	12,2
5,441,52	**DCC Energy**	6370		3,4	...
19,01	Diales Grp♦	36	+ 1½	4,2	27,7
9,845,47	**Diploma**	7330	+ 130	0,9	53,2
791,50	DiscoverIE	813	+ 49	1,6	26,9
308,71	Essentra	108¾	+ ¾	1,9	...
27,005,50	**Experian**	3044	+ 95	1,7	25,1
21,60	FIH Group♦	172½	+ 27½	27,1	3,8
260,99	Hargreaves Servs♦	850	+ 32	4,7	9,1
8,997,31	**Intertek**	5845		2,8	26,8
1,795,88	Int'l Workplace	190	+ 12	0,5	...
536,50	Johnson Service	148½	+ 4	3,2	15,9
89,26	Journeo♦	505		...	20,8
1,185,63	Kier Group	261¾	+ 7¾	3,0	20,5
215,71	Latham (J)♦	1070	+ 5	3,4	11,6
447,45	London Security♦	3650		2,7	18,8
274,59	LSL Property Servs	278	+ 4	4,1	16,7
119,62	Macfarlane	77	+ 5½	4,8	19,3
12,83	Maintel Holdings♦	68½		...	-5,8
7,20	Malvern Int'l♦	21½	+ 1	...	-2,6
352,54	Mears Group	424½	– 6½	4,3	7,6
729,53	Michael Page‡	222	– 2	2,1	76,6
2,714,76	Mitie Group	208⅝	+ ⅝	2,2	31,6
7,18	MobilityOne♦	6¾		...	-2,1
10,23	Newmark Security♦	108½	+ 2	...	15,4
4,10	Norman Broadbent♦	204	+ 14	...	6,4
16,16	Northern Bear♦‡	117½	– 13	6,4	3,9
75,88	NWF Group♦	153	+ 2	5,7	8,2
45,32	PCI-PAL♦	62½		...	...
6,07	Petards♦	10		...	-14,9
0,80	PHSC♦	7¾		...	-2,6
10,76	PowerHouse Energy♦	0¼		...	-3,0
85,59	Record	43	– 1¾	8,4	11,0
773,43	Renew Holdings♦	977	+ 26	2,1	15,8
8,732,52	**Rentokil**‡	345¾	+ 1½	2,7	25,2
393,22	Restore♦	293	+ 1½	2,5	-62,3
4,47	River Global A♦	2½		...	-0,3
26,30	Roebuck Food Group♦	26		...	-9,0
3,553,45	RS Group	756½	+ 19	3,0	21,9
11,61	RTC Group♦	95		7,1	6,7
465,44	RWS Holdings♦	125⅞	+ 2⅜	5,1	-4,6
233,62	Science Group♦	578		1,7	7,7
2,517,51	Serco‡	259	– 1	1,8	18,0
172,37	Smiths News	69⅝	+ ¼	8,0	5,9
60,46	Software Circle♦	15½	– ½	...	-73,8
49,88	Staffline Group♦	43	+ ⅞	...	11,0
367,68	SThree	301	+ 3	4,8	22,0
35,14	Synectics♦	197½	+ 12½	2,5	9,0
7,63	Thruvision Group♦	1¾	+ ⅜	...	-1,7
132,79	Tribal♦	62	+ ¾	2,1	14,8
18,62	Vianet♦	65½		3,7	45,8
1,010,32	ZIGUP‡	441½	– 24½	6,1	13,1

Retailing

537,55	AO World	94¾	– ⅝	...	14,9
2,387,95	B&M European	237⅜	+ 1¼	4,0	14,6
255,02	Card Factory	76½	+ ¼	6,6	8,5
899,15	CVS Group	1322	+ 26	0,6	17,9
389,40	DFS Furniture	165	+ 4½	0,6	15,7
1,753,93	Dunelm	870	– 14	8,0	11,3
3,722,34	Frasers Group	832½	+ 9	...	9,6
1,895,82	Greggs	1854	+ 16	3,7	15,4
598,77	Halfords‡	273½	+ 41	3,3	18,0
4,333,49	**Howden Joinery**	794	– 4	2,8	16,1
2,942,51	Inchcape‡	849½	+ 19	4,0	11,7
1,81	Imaging Biometrics	0¾	+ ⅛	...	-4,3
4,155,06	**JD Sports**	86¾	+ 2½	1,4	10,0
5,202,87	**Kingfisher**	315½	– 5¾	3,9	22,5
8,212,73	**Marks & Spencer**	394¾	+ 11⅞	1,1	31,1
4,79	Mothercare♦	0⅞		...	-0,9
44,66	Naked Wines♦	67⅜	– 1⅝	...	-7,3
18,636,50	**Next**	15575	+ 290	1,7	20,5
2,029,02	Ocado	239⅝	+ ¾	...	5,1
965,12	Pets at Home	218¾	+ 5¾	3,4	15,8
520,25	Pinewood Tech Group	452	+ 6½	...	94,2
993,31	Saga	679	+ 4	...	...
7,386,08	**Sainsbury's**	333⅜	+ ⅛	4,1	19,3
628,52	WH Smith	412¾	– 1⅜	...	-3,7
28,64	Sosandar♦	13¼	+ ¼	...	94,6
28,650,40	**Tesco**	457¼	+ ⅛	3,2	16,6
70,81	Topps Tiles	36		8,6	11,8

Technology

500,44	Alfa Financial	167⅝	– ⅝	5,7	16,4
117,22	Aptitude Software	215		2,5	29,5
49,70	Bango♦	64½	+ 1½	...	-8,9
52,30	BATM Adv Coms	11⅞		...	-3,8
116,04	Berkeley Res	26	+ 1	...	-25,2
5,28	Blackbird♦	1⅛	– ⅛	...	-1,8
35,48	Celebrus Tech♦	95	+ 4	3,6	-106,6
20,55	Cirata♦	12⅜	– ¾	...	-2,9
1,54	CloudCoCo♦	0⅛		...	0,4
6,024,03	**Computacenter**	5670	+ 585	1,3	38,7
236,19	Concurrent Tech♦	260	+ 27½	0,4	44,4
37,13	Corero♦	7¼		...	-98,4
477,27	Craneware♦	1394	+ 94	2,4	33,7
5,92	Crimson Tide♦	90	+ 2½	...	21,4
35,72	CyanConnode Hldgs♦	10	+ ⅛	...	-8,5
4,07	Dillistone Group♦	11½	– ½	...	-7,9
2,32	Forgent♦	0		...	-0,0
122,28	FDM Group	111½	– 2⅛	6,3	21,4
517,97	Filtronic♦	235½	– 14½	...	...
371,30	GB Group	162½	+ 5⅛	2,7	-5,3
53,70	Iliko♦	27	+ ½	...	-6,7
9,98	Ingenta♦	65½		6,9	5,5
67,34	Intercede♦	111	– 2½	...	19,5
16,24	Iomart♦	14¼	– ⅝	...	-1,8
641,58	IQE♦	48¼	+ 3¼	...	-12,8
311,45	LG Electronics	1812¼	– 22¾	1,4	...
58,20	MTI Wireless♦	67½	+ ½	3,0	15,6
5,08	Nanoco Group	2⅛	+ ⅛	...	-2,3
197,04	Netcall♦	115½	– 3½	0,8	47,1
6,78	Northamber♦	25		2,4	-1,7
43,65	Oxford Metrics♦	39	– ¾	8,3	-70,9
13,81	Pennant Int'l♦	29		...	-5,8
1,256,97	Playtech	406½	+ 14½	...	1,0
32,54	Pulsar Group♦	24	– ½	...	-3,1
2,614,52	QinetiQ	507½	– 32½	2,2	25,2
101,03	RM	103	+ ½	...	39,6
229,41	Seeing Machines♦	4⅝		...	-11,4
13,94	Shearwater Group♦	58½		...	-1,5
4,103,22	Softcat	2084	+ 40	1,5	31,3
0,69	Sorted Group♯	9		...	-0,2
22,977,80	Tele Ericsson	738½	– 9½	3,1	11,2
9,886,91	**The Sage Grp**	1092	– 6	2,1	28,9
6,73	Touchstar♦	85		3,8	-6,4
101,26	Tracsis♦	340	+ 20	0,8	...
71,54	Triad Group‡	410		2,2	41,3
58,02	Water Intel♦	345	+ 7	...	16,3
94,19	Xaar	118	+ 2	...	-27,4
17,33	Zoo Digital♦	17⅜	+ 3¼	...	-6,3

Telecoms

12,079,40	**Airtel Africa**	332½	+ 5⅜	1,6	24,3
20,463,60	**BT Group**‡	205¼	+ 1⅜	4,1	18,7
1,647,28	Currys‡	151½	+ 1⅝	2,0	9,8
1,016,25	Gamma Comms	1140	+ 58	1,9	16,4
2,099,83	Helios Towers‡	202½	– 3¾	0,9	74,3
18,12	Gana Media♦	0⅛		...	-3,2
680,67	Telecom Plus‡	875	+ 4	5,7	8,6
27,373,80	**Vodafone**	118½	+ 1¼	3,3	-83,9

Transport

73,91	Braemar‡	223½	+ 3½	3,1	30,9
1,567,84	Clarkson‡	5065	+ 40	2,3	23,7
5,108,99	EasyJet	674	+ 3	2,0	10,2
974,75	FirstGroup	179	– ⅜	4,0	8,4
223,75	Fisher (James)	442	– 18	...	-50,8
19,185,60	**Intl Cons Air**	438½	+ 15¼	1,6	7,2
942,76	Irish Cont	635	+ 2½	...	15,9
145,66	Mobico Group	23⅝		...	-1,1
5,00	Sutton Harbour♦	3½	– ¾	...	-0,3
1,139,35	Wizz Air	1101	+ 41	...	...

Utilities

7,178,62	**Centrica**‡	155⅞	+ 1½	3,6	-103,6
2,609,32	Drax Group	775	+ 30½	3,9	37,4
50,63	Jersey Electricity	435	– 5	5,0	12,1
58,813,60	**National Grid**	1170	– 1	4,1	17,9
2,260,79	Pennon‡	479	+ 17¼	6,1	24,7
9,502,24	**Severn Trent**	3146	+ 32	4,0	25,5
29,691,60	**SSE**‡	2449	+ 63	2,8	23,2
10,630,40	**United Utilities**	1431	+ 7	3,7	16,6

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Wkly Yld%	P/E
29,017,20	**3i Group**	2828	– 63	3,0	5,2
3,647,89	3i Infrastructure	395½	+ 4	3,4	12,4
1,361,00	Aberforth Smlr	1780	+ 18	2,7	27,8
5,085,89	**Alliance Witan**‡	1379	+ 9	2,1	74,5
116,09	Artemis UK Future Lead	400½	+ 8½	3,9	32,4
3,56	Athelney Trust	165		6,1	14,5
1,047,89	AVI Global	265½	+ 3	1,7	52,4
383,64	AVI Japan	172½	+ 3½	1,3	58,7
165,56	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	306	– 3	0,8	...
364,24	Baillie Gifford Eur Gr	127½	+ 3½	0,6	...
698,81	Baillie Gifford Jpn	1078	+ 18	0,9	...
335,65	Baillie Gifford SN	174½	+ 4⅝	0,4	...
240,72	Baillie Gifford UK Gr‡	227	+ 1	2,7	36,4
1,384,99	Bankers Invstmt Tst‡	151½	+ 2⅜	1,9	67,4
1,271,72	BH Macro GBP	424	– 2	...	20,0
329,97	Biotech Growth	1738	+ 6	...	-914,7
193,42	BlckRck Amer Inc‡	279	+ 1	5,3	98,6
185,67	BlckRck Eng&Res Inc	186	+ 2½	3,1	53,1
320,60	BlckRck Fro Inv	194	+ 3	3,9	25,9
547,51	BlackRock Grt Euro	610	+ 5	1,2	88,5
43,33	BlckRck Inc&Grth‡	234		3,3	32,4
666,31	BlckRck Smlr‡	276½	+ 2	2,9	31,6
1,981,24	BlckRck Wld Min	1060	+ 42	2,3	44,0
173,86	Brown Adv US Sm	1585	– 32½	...	-264,6
677,52	Brunner‡	1580	+ 20	1,7	56,7
2,028,48	Caledonia Inv	397	+ 11	1,9	51,6
3,047,62	City of Lon IT‡	591	+ 4	3,7	27,4
	Crystal Amber Fd	82½		-59,8	...
349,48	CT Priv Eq Ord	490	– 6	5,8	...
332,69	CT UK Cap & Inc	358	+ 5	3,8	29,5
33,50	CT UK HIT B	109		5,5	22,5
110,86	CT UK HIT	122	+ 6	4,9	25,2
	Dunedin Ent‡	475	4,8	...	...
1,067,66	Edinburgh IT	860	+ 5	3,7	32,3
921,78	Edin Wwide	266½	+ 8	...	-241,1
6,467,37	**F&C Inv Trust**	345½	+ 4¼	1,2	76,8
392,63	Fidlty Asian Val	626	+ 2	3,3	27,8
1,200,19	Fidelity China Sp	264	+ ½	3,4	28,6
583,22	FidelityEmrgMkt	1508	+ 26	1,3	66,0
2,151,82	Fidelity European Trust	439		2,3	38,8
1,536,27	Fidlty Spec Val	473½	+ 2½	2,2	38,6
828,66	Fins Gwth & Inc	836	+ 9	2,4	44,2
637,75	GCP Infrastructure‡	83½	+ 1¼	8,4	38,9
101,69	Global Opps Tst	348	+ 12½	3,0	44,6
	Golden Prospect	114½		-17,1	...
	Greencoat Renew‡	67¾	8,6	-16,9	...
2,379,10	Greencoat UK Wind‡	110½	+ ¼	9,7	-12,7
224,96	Hansa Investment Co	334	– 4	1,3	75,9
421,24	Hansa Inv Co A	330		1,3	75,0
2,347,38	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	3380	+ 20	...	-57,4
350,90	Hend High Inc	207	+ 1	5,4	18,4
535,25	Hend Smlr	989	+ 21	2,9	37,9
572,15	Herald Inv Trust	2995	+ 40	...	...
1,995,44	HgCapital Trust	440½	+ 21½	1,1	...
2,556,38	HICL Infra‡	137⅞	– 3	6,2	10,0
907,83	ICG Ent Tr‡	1494	+ 4	2,8	-201,8
175,06	Impax Env Mkts	450½	+ 5½	1,1	91,2
999,86	Invesco Asia Dragon Tr	503	+ 10	3,8	51,2
504,78	Invesco Bond Inc	171½	+ ½	7,1	13,1
535,46	Invesco Glbl Eq Inc	415	+ 4	3,9	82,8
2,008,35	JPM American‡	1218	+ 6	0,9	...
398,55	JPM Asia Gro & Inc	592	+ 10	5,3	...
216,38	JPM China‡	275	+ ½	4,9	70,7
532,14	JPM Claverhs‡	978	+ 6	3,7	29,0
96,84	JPM Emrg EMEA Sec	239½	– 4	0,3	...
1,578,61	JPM Em Mkts	168	+ 1½	4,5	73,0
576,64	JPMorgan Euro	643	+ 15	2,5	35,4
544,33	JPM Em Mkts Div Inc	211	+ 6	2,8	37,1
3,383,47	JPM GG&I‡	620	+ 4	4,0	75,0
384,07	JPM India‡	880	+ 4	5,0	...
1,228,65	JPM Japan	818	+ 15	1,1	80,6
209,10	JPM Smllr Co	435	– 5	0,7	...
1,684,45	Law Debenture	1254	+ 12	3,0	33,7
408,38	Lowland Inv	186½	+ 1	3,6	27,7
	Marwyn Val Inv‡	138	6,6	15,2	...
1,814,58	Mercantile IT	289	+ 6	2,9	31,2
1,009,81	Merchants Trust	684	+ 6	4,3	22,4
212,84	Mid Wynd	800	+ 14	1,0	...
2,493,82	Monks Inv Trust‡	1636	+ 26	0,1	...
209,09	Montanaro Eur Sml‡	181	+ 4½	0,9	93,3
935,00	Murray Income Trust‡	1002	+ 6	4,1	26,0
2,219,60	Murray Intl	372½	+ 2	3,4	26,8
485,62	Pacific Assets Trust‡	425	– 1	...	75,9
1,512,71	Pantheon Intl	394	+ 7	...	...
6,803,14	**Pershing Sqr**‡	3930	+ 14	1,4	3,8
1,711,09	Personal Assets‡	556	+ 6	1,0	92,2
7,254,84	**Polar CapTech**	656	+ 16½	...	-781,0
1,785,26	Renewables Infra‡	76⅛	– ⅛	9,8	-14,2
3,197,91	RIT Cap Ptnr	2565	– 15	1,8	...
28,50	Riverstone	591	+ 1	...	-369,7
658,91	Schroder TotRt	712	+ 8	1,6	72,6
1,048,12	Schrd Asia Pac	842	+ 5	1,5	63,7
244,55	Schrod Inc Gwth	376	+ 2	3,9	30,0
440,13	Schrod Jap Gwth	387	+ 11	3,1	56,0
167,56	Schrod UKMid	782	+ 9	2,9	31,2
110,55	Schroder UK PP Tr	17⅜	+ ⅛	...	-72,5
818,42	Scot American‡	565	+ 6	2,9	36,1
15,850,10	**Scot Mortgage**	1492½	+ 28½	0,3	...
1,256,04	Sequoia Eco	85½	– ¼	8,0	12,5
247,80	STS Glbl Inc Grwth	229	– ½	3,7	35,3
2,946,48	Temp Emg Mkt	322½	+ 2	1,6	59,8
1,292,19	Temple Bar‡	420½	+ 1	3,7	30,5
795,97	The Glbl Smaller‡	193¾	+ ¾	1,6	65,6
	Potentially AI	6		-1,5	...
967,92	TR Property	305	– 2½	5,3	19,3
	UIL	204	3,9	20,1	...
482,32	Utilico Emerging Mkt	279	+ 3	3,5	20,6
909,85	Vietnam Ent Inv	740	+ 25	...	4,8
1,370,33	Ww Health	389½	– 5½	0,6	...

◆AIM company; ♯ Price at suspension; ‡ Ex dividend; ⁑ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; ᵛ figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by ICE Data Services.

Exchange rates

Australia $	1.8913 (+0.00309)
Canada $	1.88299 (+0.00105)
Denmark Kr	8.73386 (+0.0181)
Euro	1.1681 (+0.0025)
Hong Kong $	10.622 (-0.029)
Hungary	426.63 (+1.19)
Indonesia	24004.21 (-124.47)
Israel	4.0536 (+0.0258)
Japan Yen	216.769 (+0.272)
New Zealand $	2.29158 (+0.00928)
Norway Kr	12.70501 (+0.03581)
Poland	5.07255 (+0.02879)
Russia	116.741 (-0.578)
S Africa	21.8737 (+0.14282)
Sweden Kr	13.002 (+0.0725)
Switzerland Fr	1.0954 (+0.00317)
Turkey Lira	65.384 (+0.0748)
USA $	1.3549 (-0.0042)

Gold/precious metals

(US dollars per ounce)

Bullion: Open $4603.89

Close $4526.524 **High** $4631.93

Low $4520.663

AM $4602.00 **PM** $4562.75

Platinum $1860.3

Silver $68.164

Palladium $1438.79

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks: 3.75%
ECB Refi 2.40%
Fed Fund 3.5-3.75%
Halifax Mortgage Rate (SVR) 7.24%

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.7338	8.7157	-131.621	-390.889
Euro	1.1681	1.1661	-13.61	-40.36
Montreal	1.8830	1.8820	-25.32	-77.6
New York	1.3550	1.3591	-0.005	1.2
Oslo	12.7055	12.6766	44.96	157.4
Tokyo	216.7520	216.5190	-51.61	-152.11
Zurich	1.0954	1.0920	-36.35	-111.26

Other sterling

Argentine peso	2051.08496-2051.08691
Australian dollar	1.89125-1.89146
Bahrain dinar	0.51060-0.51260
Brazilian real	7.06850-7.07050
Euro	1.16810-1.16890
Hong Kong dollar	10.62200-10.62600
Indian rupee	129.48160-129.56160
Indonesian rupiah	24004.21094-24044.21094
Kuwaiti dinar	0.41760-0.41960
Malaysian ringgit	5.45470-5.45670
New Zealand dollar	2.29128-2.29192
Singaporean dollar	1.72641-1.72726
South African rand	21.86554-21.87673
UAE dirham	4.97680-4.97880

Dollar rates

Australia	1.39540-1.39620
Canada	1.38984-1.38991
Denmark	6.44641-6.44719
Euro	0.86220-0.86260
Hong Kong	7.84040-7.84050
Japan	159.99300-159.99699
Malaysia	4.02200-4.03000
Norway	9.37683-9.37987
Singapore	1.27451-1.27463
Sweden	9.59640-9.59868
Switzerland	0.80859-0.80863

Data provided by ICE. Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by ICE or this publication

ICE

loveactually

LIVE IN CONCERT

FILM SCREENING FEATURING A FULL LIVE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHRISTMAS 2026

30 NOV GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL
02 DEC EDINBURGH USHER HALL
02 DEC LONDON EVENTIM APOLLO
04 DEC BATH THE FORUM
05 DEC LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL
06 DEC SWANSEA BUILDING SOCIETY ARENA
10 DEC NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT HALL
11 DEC SHEFFIELD CITY HALL
12 DEC YORK BARBICAN
14 DEC BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL
15 DEC MANCHESTER BRIDGEWATER HALL
20 DEC POOLE LIGHTHOUSE
21 DEC BRIGHTON BRIGHTON CENTRE
22 DEC PORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL

LOVEACTUALLYINCONCERT.COM

LOVE ACTUALLY IS A COPYRIGHT OF WT VENTURE LLC. LICENSED BY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Supreme court judge in Ireland who had to resign
Hugh O'Flaherty
Page 38

Register

Obituaries

Wilem Frischmann

Buccaneering structural engineer whose solutions for Centre Point made possible future generations of tall buildings in London

COURTESY OF PELL FRISCHMANN; ALAMY

Frischmann in front of the newly completed Centre Point. He also structurally engineered the NatWest Tower, below

Building skyscrapers on London's clay foundations was thought to be too risky until the structural engineering innovation of Wilem Frischmann. A Jewish Holocaust survivor of Hungarian heritage who had settled in Britain after the war, Frischmann effectively made the capital's skyline of towers possible by demonstrating on the Centre Point project that large-diameter concrete piles, drilled close together, could bear enormous loads without buildings settling into the clay.

Frischmann put his career on the line — and built on the work of Professor Alec Skempton, the father of soil mechanics — by testing his solution on the 34-storey tower above a warren of sewers and Tube tunnels at the nexus of Tottenham Court Road, Oxford Street and Charing Cross Road. "I was told you can't build tower blocks on clay, so I made a point of showing that you could," he told The Observer in 2018.

Precision was key, and when the concrete piles were ready to pour he inspected the holes himself, got stuck in one and spent the night there praying that he would be rescued in the morning and not become a permanent part of his ingenious engineering solution.

After the building was completed in 1966, Frischmann would go on to seal his reputation as one of the most influential structural engineers of his generation. He collaborated on more than 50 tall buildings with the pipe-smoking architect of Centre Point, Richard Seifert, who, liberated by Frischmann's engineering nous, would go on to design more buildings in London than Sir Christopher Wren.

Projects with Seifert included the NatWest tower (now Tower 42) in the City of London, but Centre Point remained his magnum opus. There Frischmann developed thin but high-strength precast concrete elements that comprise the building's structure in an elegant lattice.

Because of the tightness and busyness of the central London site, the tower's prefabricated elements were trucked in as needed and craned into place without external scaffolding, while the central concrete core was poured and then vertically jacked up. With seemingly little going on, the building rose at an astounding rate of one floor a week.

Public reaction to Centre Point was initially hostile. The architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner dismissed the tower as "coarse in the extreme"; in 1974 a group of squatters, including the future mayor of London Ken Livingstone, condemned it as "the concrete symbol of everything that is rotten about our society". The property mysteriously remained vacant for 15 years (apparently in a scheme by the developer Harry Hyams to exploit the property's furious capital appreciation while avoiding the rates payable had it been occupied). Eventually it gained tenants, many Londoners learnt to love it and the building was grade II listed in 1995.

The 117-metre tower gave Frischmann a platform to share his futurist architectural visions on programmes such as *Tomorrow's World*. As he pondered how people would live in cities decades hence, he would look obsessively at the termite farms that he used to keep at the family home in Twickenham and developed a vision for human "vertical living" in Britain's overcrowded cities. Termite towers as high as 40ft were "as colossal to them as a two-mile-high building would be for us", he said.

Speaking to The Times in 1965, Frischmann predicted that "dramatic advances in concrete technology" would enable two-mile skyscrapers that would be cities in themselves, accommodating 400,000 people, solving transport problems at a stroke "because people will live more compact lives" and enabling residents to benefit from purer air above the clouds and permanent sunshine.

In May 1968 Frischmann was confronted with a more sobering reality. Over the past few years he had warned against the use of large panel systems (LPS) for high-rise housing blocks that had proliferated in the UK from the late 1950s but had the potential to collapse like a house of cards. In 1968 the 22-storey Ronan Point tower block in Newham, east London, collapsed after a gas explosion on the 18th floor caused one corner of the building to fall away. Miraculously only four people were killed.

Termite farms, kept at the family home, inspired visions of 'vertical living'

Frischmann was the natural choice to write a report for the Treasury into why the tower collapsed. His recommendations, in which he coined the phrase "progressive collapse", led to changes in building regulations in 1970 that effectively banned the use of stacked, unbolted precast-concrete panel systems for high-rise social housing. In future, such buildings had to have robust steel connections and "alternative load paths" so that the loss of one wall panel would not trigger a chain reaction.

In the following years, Frischmann grew his firm Pell Frischmann into a global player in consulting engineering with more than 1,000 staff and subsidiaries in India and the Middle East. In 2015 the company won the Queen's Award for International Trade. And though his two-mile towers never came to pass, Frischmann left his mark on remarkable structures all over the world from the HSBC building in Shanghai to the Maybank Tower in Kuala Lumpur.

On the HSBC building he fell out with the project architect Sir Norman Foster and made other enemies in the industry, including the construction company Taylor Woodrow whose LPS solution for housing blocks he had been so critical of. His son Richard said: "Because of what he had been through as a child, he was a great fighter, combative, mercurial, determined and always fascinated by technology."

Wilem Frischmann was born into a Jewish family in Ungvar, Czechoslovakia (now Uzhhorod in Ukraine), in 1931. In 1944 the Frischmanns were deported to Auschwitz, where his parents Lajos, a university administrator of Hungarian origin, and Nelly, who was Ukrainian, as well as his younger sister Bosyi, were murdered. Frischmann and his brother survived a "death march" from Auschwitz to Buchenwald. Aged 14, he was flown to Britain from Prague with 100 other child refugees. He was educated at Millisle School in Co Down, and then Bunce Court, a school for displaced Jewish children in Otterden, Kent, whose alumni include the artist Frank Auerbach.

Wilem studied at the Hammersmith College of Art and Building and then took a degree in building technology at Imperial College London followed by a PhD from the Northampton Institute in London (now City St George's) in which he wrote his thesis on how to build tall buildings on clay. He joined CJ Pell & Partners in 1958 and became a partner just three years later. He was appointed chairman in 1968, and after the company was renamed Pell Frischmann he diversified into transportation, highways and bridges, railways, water, wastewater and nuclear power — the company was involved in the project to construct an enormous concrete and steel casing to seal off the ruined reactor 4 at Chernobyl in 1986.

He followed up Centre Point by engineering Seifert's 100-metre-high Drapers' Gardens in the City of London, completed in 1967 and demonstrating that the Square Mile could herald new generations of office towers, from the Gherkin and the Cheesegrater to the Walkie-Talkie.

The 47-storey, 183-metre-tall NatWest tower, completed in 1980, was the first building in Britain higher than 600ft and the tallest building in the UK until it was superseded by One Canada Square in Canary Wharf in 1990. Exemplifying Frischmann's attention to detail, the tower, built in the hexagonal shape of the bank's logo, was found to be structurally sound after the IRA Bishopsgate bomb in 1993.

A fierce intellect who was unencumbered by self-doubt, Frischmann was as entrepreneurial as the great engineering innovators of the 19th century such as Brunel, and like them had mixed fortunes. His 1973 proposal for a cross-Channel bridge that would rise 230 metres above the waves and include a 12-lane motorway, a railway and a vast "Eurocity" in the middle made the tunnel that was eventually built seem modest in comparison.

One of his successes was forming a consortium that bought part of the government's Property Services Agency for £10.4 million in 1993. The private enterprise won contracts from new NHS trusts to maintain hospital buildings. Three years later he sold the company to CVC Capital Partners for £84.6 million. Frischmann made £18 million.

Frischmann later formed the Greenwich Media World consortium with Sir Robert McAlpine and, backed by the Royal Bank of Scotland, bid for the Millennium Dome site in 2001 with the promise of a £650 million investment to create a film studio run by Tussauds Group. It came to nothing but the keen chess player kept making moves.

Frischmann's wife Sylvia (née Elvey), a former model for Vogue, predeceased him. He is survived by their son Richard, a corporate lawyer and former managing director of Pell Frischmann, and daughter Justine, a former architecture student who would become the lead singer of the band Elastica, the so-called Queen of Britpop, and is now an artist living in San Francisco. Interviewed by The Guardian at the height of her fame in the late 1990s, Justine said: "My father is an incredibly positive, ambitious, world-embracing person, and seeing that has been really important to me."

Wilem Frischmann stepped down as chairman of Pell Frischmann in 2015. That year he was delighted when Centre Point was given a new lease of life by being transformed into luxury flats. Pell Frischmann was appointed as structural engineer to oversee the conversion. In truth it was found that the structure had not suffered from the sort of decay that led to many other brutalist concrete structures being demolished. Like its relentlessly ambitious structural engineer, the tower had aged well.

Wilem Frischmann CBE, structural engineer, was born on January 27, 1931. He died after a long illness on August 20, 2026, aged 95

Register

Mr Justice Hugh O'Flaherty

Irish Supreme Court judge who ruled in the landmark 'X case' allowing a raped teenager to travel to Britain for an abortion

Hugh O'Flaherty had been a judge of the Irish Supreme Court for only two years when he had to rule on one of the most controversial cases in Irish legal history. The year was 1992 and there was an appeal against a decision of the High Court prohibiting the parents of a 14-year-old girl, who had been raped, from taking her to England for an abortion. The High Court judge's decision had been grounded on a provision inserted in the constitution prohibiting abortion, under which an unborn child enjoyed a right to life equal to that of the mother.

O'Flaherty was in the majority of the court allowing the appeal, riding roughshod in the process over the literal words of the provision. They allowed the parents to take their pregnant child to England.

In retrospect this was seen as the first victory in the battle to secularise Irish society, curbing the dominance of the Catholic Church, which had ensured that its views on sexual morality were reflected in the civil law of the state. But O'Flaherty, a practising Catholic, would not have had any such general agenda; it was, for him, just what compassion demanded in the case before him.

O'Flaherty loved the law and was learned in it. Yet as a judge he was reluctant to be bound by legal technicalities and rules when they produced harsh results or did not accord with common sense. It was a results-orientated approach not always congenial to legal purists. He prided himself on avoiding the pomposities of judicial office and remaining accessible to all-comers. He also socialised more than may have been wise for a judge.

O'Flaherty's accessibility proved his undoing when, late in 1998, in a casual conversation with a relative of a motorist convicted of causing death by dangerous driving, he gave advice that led the motorist to apply to the court that had sentenced him to suspend the remainder of the sentence. The irregularities surrounding the subsequent hearing when the remainder of the sentence was suspended led to protests from the deceased person's family and a public outcry. The chief justice held an inquiry and found that the judge concerned had failed to conduct the case in a manner befitting a judge and so "had compromised the administration of justice".

O'Flaherty felt he had no option but to give in to the pressure to resign

The report also faulted O'Flaherty for his intervention. It opined that the re-hearing would not have occurred had he not subsequently inquired from a court official if he had been correct in his belief that cases could be re-listed. It concluded that O'Flaherty's unwise conduct left his motives open to misconstruction and by so doing "had damaged the administration of justice". In response, the government threatened to impeach O'Flaherty as well as the erring judge for misbehaviour. Although O'Flaherty was adamant that nothing he had done amounted to misbehaviour justifying his removal from office, he succumbed to pressure to resign. It prematurely ended his judicial career.

Hugh James O'Flaherty was born in Killarney, Co Kerry, in 1938. His mother

O'Flaherty's advice proved costly

Catherine (née McSweeney) died when he was five; his bereft, slightly eccentric electrician father, James, farmed him out to an aunt in Cahirciveen on the scenic Iveragh peninsula, where he and his sister enjoyed a happy childhood.

An uncle much interested in young Hugh's future was Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, the "Vatican Pimpernel", who did heroic work in Rome during the Second World War protecting Jews and others from the Germans who had occupied the Eternal City in 1943 in the aftermath of Italy's decision to make peace with the Allies and who inspired the 1983 film *The Scarlet and the Black*, starring Gregory Peck.

The monsignor's work was honoured by the British authorities and disposed him to encourage his young nephew to avail of a British government scheme financing the education of lawyers in exchange for their commitment to serve in the Colonial Legal Service when they qualified. So, after school in a local diocesan college, the young Hugh O'Flaherty proceeded to study law at University College Dublin and the King's Inns, where he was a prize-winning student.

By the time he was called to the Bar in 1959, the winds of change that would be proclaimed by Harold Macmillan in 1960 were starting to blow through Africa, bringing colonial rule to an end. The Colonial Office no longer needed the lawyers whom they had helped with their education. O'Flaherty was left free to practise in Ireland, making ends meet by lecturing students and as a sub-editor for The Irish Press newspaper.

The newspaper was the organ of the Fianna Fail party, of which he had become a supporter when, as a boy, he listened to its leader, Éamon de Valera, addressing a meeting in Cahirciveen. O'Flaherty did his pupillage with a barrister member of Fianna Fail and acquired a good practice as a junior counsel briefed by the state in civil cases. It gave him the experience that allowed him to build a wider practice and in 1976 he became a senior counsel admired for his shrewdness as much as his industry and knowledge of the law; as counsel for the state he was punctilious in persuading the authorities that they should not act unfairly just because the law permitted it.

Fianna Fail had become deeply divided as a result of the prosecution in 1970 of the finance minister Charles Haughey by Jack Lynch's government on a charge of conspiring to import arms to be used by Catholics in Northern Ireland. While remaining loyal to Lynch, who attended his call to the Inner Bar, O'Flaherty skilfully navigated the divisions in the party; it was Haughey, as taoiseach, who acceded in 1990 to his request to enjoy the rare preferment of being appointed straight from the Bar to the Supreme Court.

Until the events that gave rise to his resignation, it was anticipated that O'Flaherty would succeed as chief justice. He had been conservative, adjudicating on constitutional challenges to enacted legislation, and was kind and sympathetic to those arguing a case before him. A volume of his legal essays published in 1998 bore witness to his capacity as a jurist.

O'Flaherty was predeceased in 2017 by his wife, Kathleen, whom he had met when she nursed him in hospital as a young man. He is survived by his four children: his elder son Hugh and younger daughter Brid both became barristers; Rory works in advertising and Catherine is a film producer.

Feeling, not unreasonably, that he had been treated harshly when forced to resign by the Fianna Fail government, O'Flaherty was devastated. A clumsy effort by one of its ministers to appoint him to the board of the European Investment Bank as a consolation fell flat, adding to his humiliation. He became seriously depressed and almost completely inactive for years.

Then, having survived an operation for prostate cancer, he recovered his spirits, once more enjoying his familiar pursuits, playing golf and supporting the Kerry team in Gaelic football.

Hugh O'Flaherty, Irish Supreme Court judge, was born on January 20, 1938. He died on August 5, 2026, aged 88

Timothy Burrill

Urbane film producer celebrated for his gentlemanly qualities who worked on features with Roman Polanski including The Pianist

In an industry not always known for its manners, Timothy Burrill's honesty and discretion were renowned. Tall and urbane, with striking blue eyes and an affable, patrician manner, Burrill made an art of delicately reining in the fiery artistic temperaments with which he worked. He was known as "the last gentleman producer" not only for his impeccable manners — Burrill stood up to shake hands, pulled out chairs for people and always sent a thank you letter after an engagement — but for using his charm to find solutions if a director ran wildly over budget on a production.

Such a fate befell Roman Polanski's extravagant adaptation of *Macbeth* in 1971. Co-written with Kenneth Tynan, the production had been funded by Hugh Hefner and the Playboy Group but went spectacularly over budget after the cast and crew spent a month shooting a long drawn-out battle scene in a remote, weather-beaten part of Scotland. Polanski was so behind schedule that the film's "completion bond" — the insurance that the film would be delivered, a kind of financial safety net for investors — was at risk of shutting down the whole operation. Burrill was tasked with balancing Polanski's creative vision with the concerns of the guarantors, a diplomatic feat he achieved by persuading Hefner to invest another 50 per cent of the budget.

Burrill's creative partnership with Polanski was one of the most enduring of his career, even if they were different in almost every respect. Burrill was a Welsh-born old Etonian and former Grenadier Guard whose great passion for Eccles cakes dated back to working

FRANK APTHORP/ANL/SHUTTERSTOCK

Burrill's first marriage was to the model Philippa Hare, with whom he had a daughter

on the docks of Liverpool. Polanski evaded capture in Nazi-occupied Poland before becoming one of the most celebrated directors of the 20th century, a career that was mired in controversy after he was accused of raping a 13-year-old girl. Where Polanski was personally flawed but creatively brilliant — something of a firebrand behind the camera — Burrill was methodical, patient, discreet and honourable. Much of his job required calming the waters.

Burrill's genteel manner sometimes led people in Hollywood to underestimate his mastery over the bureaucracy of film-making. As production supervisor on the 1978 *Superman* starring Christopher Reeve, he was known for taking walks around the studio and saved the production millions of dollars when he spotted a set being built for a scene that had been scrapped three days earlier; he later produced the 1984 production of *Supergirl* starring Helen Slater, Faye Dunaway and Peter O'Toole.

Burrill helped to finance the Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire* (1981) and worked on several more productions with Polanski including *Tess* (1979), the partly-autobiographical *The Pianist* (2002), *Oliver Twist* (2005) and *The Ghost Writer* (2010), which won six prizes, including best film and best director, at the European Film Awards. Burrill accepted them on behalf of Polanski, who feared extradition to the United States and called in via Skype.

Burrill also produced *The Fourth Protocol*, a Cold War spy thriller directed by John Mackenzie and starring Michael Caine and Pierce Brosnan, about a secret agreement signed by the superpowers to prevent nuclear proliferation. Later Burrill said that he believed the commercial success of the film had been hampered by bad timing. Frederick Forsyth wrote the novel in 1983, when nuclear holocaust seemed genuinely possible, but by 1987, when the film was released, the political climate had cooled: Gorbachev had replaced Chernenko as the leader of the Soviet Union and implemented *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (restructuring). "If we made the film five years earlier it would have had more impact on the current political situation," said Burrill, adding that thrillers need to be relevant to stimulate an audience.

Timothy Peckover Burrill was born in St Asaph, a small city on the Elwy in Denbighshire, north Wales, in 1931 to Marjorie (née Hurlbutt) and Lionel, a land agent. After Eton he served in the Grenadier Guards in Germany, where he was tasked with transporting the payroll for the British Army of the Rhine, armed with a pistol.

Before his career in film, Burrill worked in shipping at the Liverpool docks, where he was in charge of checking what was unloaded from the ships, then as part of the crew on a Clan Line cargo ship sailing to Beira, Mozambique. It was not the life he wanted, and he soon found a job he loved working for a small film company that made documentaries for the British government, including for the NHS; another project included making a documentary for Tito to promote Yugoslavia for tourism. Since Burrill's beloved career in film began in 1956, he kept the number plate TB56. His early credits include *On the Fiddle* (1961), one of Sean Connery's first roles, and Karel Reisz's 1964 feature *Night Must Fall*.

Burrill was a pioneer in promoting the UK as a co-production partner for European outfits, particularly French films. He was chairman of Bafta between 1981 and 1983 and head of production at Pathé Pictures UK in 1997 when Pathé, a French company, won one of the three UK government lottery franchises to produce UK films.

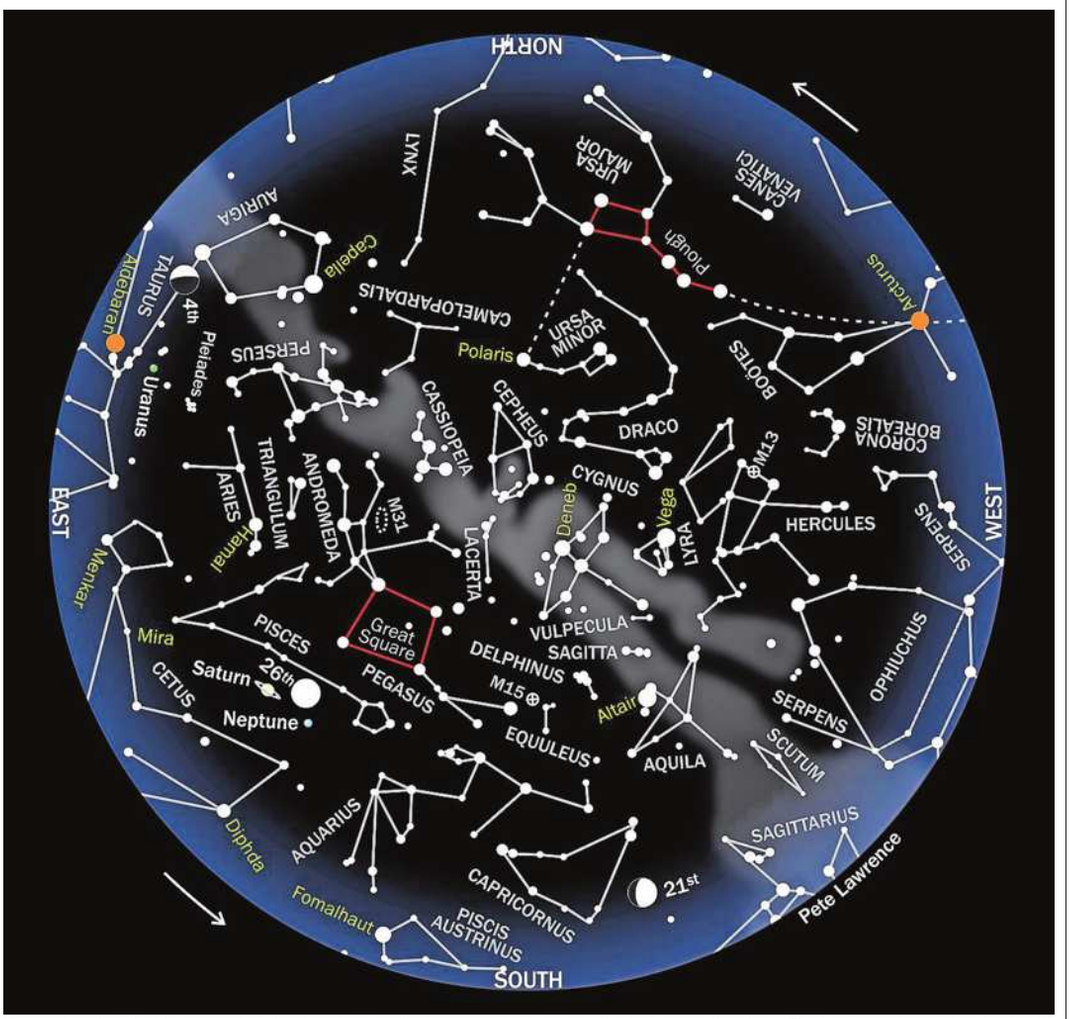
Burrill married twice. His first wife was the model Philippa Hare, with whom he had a daughter, Rebecca. His second wife was Santa Wolfe, an architect with whom he had three children: Jemima, Joshua and Tabitha. They divorced and he is survived by his children and partner of 43 years, Petra Willoughby.

Apart from on a film set, Burrill was happiest sitting at a harbour watching the ships roll in, a nod, perhaps, to his days as a Liverpool docker.

Timothy Burrill, film producer, was born on June 8, 1931. He died on July 23, 2026, aged 95

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

Night Sky September



To use this chart hold it up so that the direction in which you are looking is at the bottom of the chart. The bottom edge of the chart will then represent your real horizon and the centre represents the point directly overhead. The view is correct for the UK at 11pm GMT on September 1, 10pm GMT on September 15 and 9pm GMT on September 30

Opportunity knocks for Neptune

Chris Lintott

This September marks the 180th anniversary of the discovery of the planet Neptune, which is at opposition on the 26th. With the full moon just above it, this is a great opportunity to see our most distant planet.

Neptune is too faint to be seen without optical aid, but binoculars will show it. It forms an isosceles triangle with the moon and with the brighter Saturn, which keeps it company in the constellation of Pisces. Small telescopes will show the colour — a pale blue — and the disc that distinguishes it from the surrounding stars.

Under a decent magnification it is difficult to miss Neptune's planetary nature, even though motion against the background stars observed from night to night is necessary to confirm that this is in fact a member of the solar system.

It is somewhat surprising therefore that a host of observers spotted Neptune without noticing what they had before the formal discovery by Johann Gottfried Galle in Berlin in 1846.

The most famous of these pre-discovery observations was made by Galileo, who spotted Neptune in 1612 and 1613, and even noted that it seemed to be moving without making the logical jump that would allow him to announce a new planet. The most infamous was made by Cambridge's Professor James Challis, who was following up a prediction by John Couch Adams. Adams had been studying the movement of Uranus, and certain irregularities allowed him to predict the presence of another massive body in the outer solar system. His work was accurate, but Challis was cautious, and decided to scan a large area of sky. He did observe Neptune, but was beaten by the German team working on predictions by the great French dynamicist, Urbain Le Verrier.

Neptune completes one orbit around the sun in a period just short of 165 years, so has travelled around the sky once since its discovery. Its position, when found by Galle was a few degrees from delta Capricornus, is highlighted on this month's chart. An ancient constellation, this loose asterism of stars is traditionally identified with a mythical "sea-goat", but to me always looks more like a paper boat.

The first and brightest of these stars, Al Giedi, is, in a doubling of nomenclature common in older constellations, itself known as "the goat". It is a double star, with two stars relatively close in brightness, but the alignment is a coincidence and the two are merely close in our line of sight, rather than being a gravitationally bound pair.

The constellation is best known for the presence of the excellent globular cluster M30. Though never high in British skies, it is easily visible in binoculars, and in a telescope's eyepiece this glorious cluster of tens of thousands of stars is a wonderful sight, with the dense core surrounded by chains of resolved stars.

Observing it means looking across the galaxy, as it is some 27,000 light-years away from us. More recently, it has become prized by astronomers as a tracer of our galaxy's history, as its retrograde motion, against the flow of the Milky Way's normal stellar traffic, indicates it was acquired in a merger with a long-dispersed satellite galaxy.

Returning to the solar system, the morning sky contains several naked-eye planets at the moment. Best placed is Saturn, which was mentioned earlier, and which by the end of the month will be a few days shy of its own opposition. The rings have now opened up after the recent ring-plane crossing, and are once more easily visible in even small telescopes. Mars rises just after midnight at the start of the month, and by the end is near to the famous Beehive Cluster in Cancer, through which the crescent moon passes in an occultation on the morning of September 8.

To view this photogenic event, find a clear east-north-east horizon, and use binoculars to spot the cluster's constituent stars. The brightening of the pre-dawn sky will quickly wash out the faint cluster stars, though, so this is worth getting up early for. The occultation begins at about 4am.

Jupiter in September's sky has the status of a coming attraction, though rising a view hours before the sun as the month starts it is already brilliant and the brightest thing in the eastern sky before dawn. By the end of the month, it will be high enough in dark skies to allow decent photography, and observers will set to work cataloguing the ever-changing pattern of clouds, storms and belts that make the largest of the planets such an evergreen opportunity for observing.

Births, Marriages and Deaths

To book a Birth, Marriage or Death announcement in the Register, visit: **newsukadvertising.co.uk** for help, please call 020 7782 7553 or email BMDs@thetimes.co.uk

ENTER ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Matthew 7.13-14 (AV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Forthcoming Marriages

MR E. G. L. PADFIELD AND MISS H. A. TOLHURST
The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Mr and Mrs IG Padfield of Weald Hall Farm, Essex, and Harriet, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs JA Tolhurst of Pharisee House, Essex.

Court Circular

Balmoral Castle
30th August, 2026
Divine Service was held in Crathie Parish Church this morning.
The Reverend Sarah Brown preached the Sermon.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7782 7553

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion

The latest collection of Times obituaries

Sex! Shame! Scandal! The lives of Hollywood legends in The Times

Now available from bookshops as well as amazon.co.uk and thetimes.co.uk/bookshop

THE TIMES

THE TOP PARTNER FOR
Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines

EXCLUSIVE PROMOTION ENDS 8PM 4TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ROL CRUISE 30 TRUSTED FOR OVER 30 YEARS

WE'RE OPEN TODAY AS USUAL

THE 2027 NO-FLY ADULTS-ONLY SOUTH OF FRANCE & CORSICA

CRUISE SALE

INCREDIBLE FARES ONLY WITH ROL CRUISE

INCLUDED DRINKS & GRATUITIES

MONEY-BACK SATISFACTION GUARANTEE++

JUST A DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO BOOK

HAND-CRAFTED HIGHLIGHTS

Ideally timed ahead of the peak season bustle, this sailing to the South of France makes the most of warm days and quieter streets, perfect for slowing the pace. Calls into Villefranche and Toulon immerse you in the elegance of the French Riviera. Explore pastel-hued towns, yacht-lined harbours and lively markets, with opportunities for gentle coastal walks and scenic boat trips. Tours also open the door to explore further, from the winding lanes of Nice's Old Town to the grandeur of Monaco's palace district. Two full days in Ajaccio allow time to delve into Corsica's character: taste local wine and cheese, trace Napoleonic history, stroll palm-lined squares and savour the unhurried charm of an evening in the island's capital.

Monte Carlo, Monaco

17 NIGHTS DEPARTING 3RD JUNE 2027

JUNE 2027

Thu 3	**Embark the adults-only *Borealis* and depart Liverpool**
Mon 7	**Malaga, Spain**
Tue 8	**Cartagena, Spain**
Thu 10 - Fri 11	**Ajaccio, France** (overnight) Corsica's island capital of Ajaccio is a charming and captivating city with tree-lined boulevards and narrow streets adorned with pastel-painted houses that meet at wide-open squares offering vistas of the blue waters of the Mediterranean. Restaurants, bistros, and cafés spill out onto the pavements, and the historic centre of Place Foch is a popular place to sit and watch the world go by
Sat 12	**Villefranche, France** Nestled between the bustling cities of Nice and Monte Carlo, Villefranche offers a quieter, more traditional taste of the French Riviera. This picturesque harbour town rises from the jewel-like Mediterranean coastline with its colourful, ornate buildings and narrow, winding streets
Sun 13	**Toulon, France**
Mon 14	**Port-Vendres, France**
Wed 16	**Gibraltar**
Sun 20	**Arrive in Liverpool**

Dates not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea

ROL CRUISE FARES FROM (PP)

INTERIOR	OCEAN VIEW	TERRACE	SUITE
£2,449	£2,939	£3,919	£5,389

Solo Ocean View† fares available from **£4,289**

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full-board cruising on board ***Borealis*** including++:
  - **INCLUDED DRINKS** with lunch & dinner, including house beer, wine and draught soft drinks
  - **INCLUDED GRATUITIES**
  - A wide choice of restaurants, lounges and bars
  - All meals throughout your cruise, from five course à la carte dining to casual breakfast and lunch buffets and late-night snacks
  - **FREE** self-service tea and coffee (at selected venues), morning coffee with biscuits, and afternoon sandwiches and cakes
  - **OCEANS MEMBERS SAVE 5%±**
  - On board currency is pound sterling
  - A different show every night, from cabaret shows and comedians to live music and dancing
  - On board leisure facilities including heated outdoor swimming pools, Jacuzzis and gyms
  - Shore walks
- **PLUS**, book by 8pm 4th September 2026 and receive a **FREE** Duo of Wine+

SAVE EVERY TIME YOU BOOK - EARN EXCLUSIVE CRUISE MILES® worth up to **£107** towards your next cruise with ROL Cruise††

MONEY-BACK SATISFACTION GUARANTEE++

Fred. Olsen are so confident you'll love cruising with them, if within 48 hours of boarding you feel it isn't right for you, they'll fly you home from the next available port at their expense, and your cruise fare will be refunded in full.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

rolcruise.co.uk/times
TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE
ABTA ABTA No F9255

CALL ONE OF OUR CRUISE SPECIALISTS **FREE** ON

0808 239 6814

QUOTE OFFER REF **644825**

WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 8:30AM – 8PM

Trustpilot

Platinum Trusted Service Award 2026 feefo

Fares are based on two adults sharing and may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. Pricing and availability correct at time of sign off 28/08/2026. ±Oceans members discount will be applied at the time of booking and T&Cs apply. +Gift is based on one per booking, for UK mainland addresses only. †Denotes obstructed view. ++Subject to the cruise line's T&Cs. Fred. Olsen Satisfaction Guarantee T&Cs apply. ††Cruise Miles® T&Cs apply. Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines T&Cs apply. E&OE

Today Sunny spells with the chance of a shower, some heavy in the afternoon. Max 22C (72F), min 8C (46F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday	yesterday	Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm	Sun hr* yesterday
Aberdeen	15	C	0.0	0.0
Aberporth	18	R	2.6	1.0
Anglesey	17	R	8.6	0.4
Aviemore	17	R	3.8	0.3
Barnstaple	21	C	3.4	☆☆
Bedford	21	C	14.0	☆☆
Belfast	17	R	23.6	0.0
Birmingham	22	PC	1.6	☆☆
Bournemouth	21	C	2.8	0.4
Bridlington	19	PC	4.0	☆☆
Bristol	20	R	0.8	3.6
Camborne	15	C	3.0	3.9
Cardiff	21	PC	9.6	2.6
Edinburgh	17	C	8.4	6.5
Eskdalemuir	17	R	12.2	3.9
Glasgow	17	C	8.8	7.7
Hereford	21	PC	0.4	☆☆
Herstmonceux	20	C	1.4	0.2
Ipswich	22	PC	10.0	0.7
Isle of Man	17	R	0.0	0.0
Isle of Wight	21	R	0.2	☆☆
Jersey	21	C	0.4	2.1
Keswick	19	D	8.2	☆☆
Kinloss	☆☆	☆☆	☆☆	☆☆
Leeds	19	PC	5.4	☆☆
Lerwick	12	C	0.0	0.2
Leuchars	15	D	3.4	3.5
Lincoln	22	PC	2.6	0.7
Liverpool	19	C	4.6	☆☆
London	23	PC	0.4	0.9
Lyneham	20	C	0.0	2.1
Manchester	19	C	5.0	0.0
Margate	22	PC	0.0	1.3
Milford Haven	18	C	1.4	☆☆
Newcastle	21	PC	0.0	☆☆
Nottingham	20	C	2.6	0.5
Orkney	13	C	0.8	☆☆
Oxford	18	R	0.4	☆☆
Plymouth	20	PC	0.6	☆☆
Portland	20	PC	0.0	☆☆
Scilly, St Mary's	18	C	1.0	☆☆
Shoreham	21	☆☆	0.8	0.5
Shrewsbury	17	D	1.0	0.0
Snowdonia	17	R	5.8	☆☆
Southend	22	PC	0.0	0.9
South Uist	16	C	0.0	☆☆
Stornoway	15	C	0.8	0.0
Tiree	15	C	0.4	8.1
Whitehaven	17	R	2.6	2.4
Wick	13	C	0.8	☆☆
Yeovilton	19	C	3.2	1.9

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	31	S	Madeira	27	PC
Amsterdam	19	R	Madrid	28	S
Athens	30	S	Malaga	27	S
Auckland	16	PC	Mallorca	30	PC
Bahrain	41	S	Malta	36	S
Bangkok	32	PC	Melbourne	14	B
Barbados	30	PC	Mexico City	23	B
Barcelona	29	PC	Miami	27	C
Beijing	32	S	Milan	28	S
Beirut	☆☆	☆☆	Mombasa	27	PC
Belgrade	30	S	Montreal	21	PC
Berlin	25	PC	Moscow	22	S
Bermuda	31	PC	Mumbai	30	☆☆
Bordeaux	20	B	Munich	25	PC
Brussels	22	PC	Nairobi	23	PC
Bucharest	29	S	Naples	33	PC
Budapest	30	S	New Orleans	32	PC
Buenos Aires	21	S	New York	25	PC
Cairo	30	S	Nice	28	S
Calcutta	30	☆☆	Nicosia	34	PC
Canberra	18	PC	Oslo	18	B
Cape Town	17	S	Paris	22	B
Chicago	27	C	Perth	23	PC
Copenhagen	18	SH	Prague	25	S
Corfu	33	PC	Reykjavik	11	B
Delhi	32	☆☆	Riga	20	B
Dubai	42	PC	Rio de Janeiro	35	S
Dublin	19	B	Riyadh	46	S
Faro	27	S	Rome	33	S
Florence	31	S	San Francisco	21	PC
Frankfurt	26	S	Santiago	18	PC
Geneva	28	S	São Paulo	30	S
Gibraltar	24	S	Seoul	27	S
Helsinki	18	B	Seychelles	29	PC
Hong Kong	31	PC	Singapore	31	B
Honolulu	☆☆	☆☆	St Petersburg	15	SH
Istanbul	28	B	Stockholm	19	B
Jerusalem	31	B	Sydney	19	S
Johannesburg	19	S	Tel Aviv	31	B
Kuala Lumpur	33	PC	Tenerife	29	PC
Kyiv	☆☆	☆☆	Tokyo	24	B
Lanzarote	29	PC	Vancouver	18	PC
Las Palmas	28	PC	Venice	29	S
Lima	22	DU	Vienna	29	S
Lisbon	26	PC	Warsaw	25	PC
Los Angeles	29	PC	Washington	27	PC
Luxor	37	S	Zurich	26	PC

Five days ahead

Changeable with spells of rain and showers, most frequent in the north and west

Tomorrow

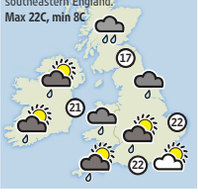
Outbreaks of heavy rain will spread southeastwards across Scotland and Northern Ireland. A few isolated showers in Wales and southern Ireland. Sunny spells elsewhere.

Max 23C, min 5C

Wednesday

Unsettled with outbreaks of rain and showers in northern and western England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland. Largely dry and mostly cloudy in southeastern England.

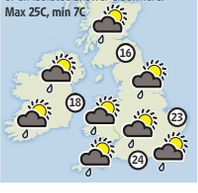
Max 22C, min 8C



Thursday

Spells of showery rain will push eastwards across Ireland, Scotland, western Wales and northwestern England. Sunny spells with the chance of an isolated shower elsewhere.

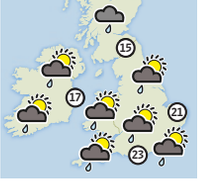
Max 25C, min 7C



Friday

Unsettled with outbreaks of rain and showers. Rain will be heaviest in northwestern Scotland.

Max 24C, min 7C

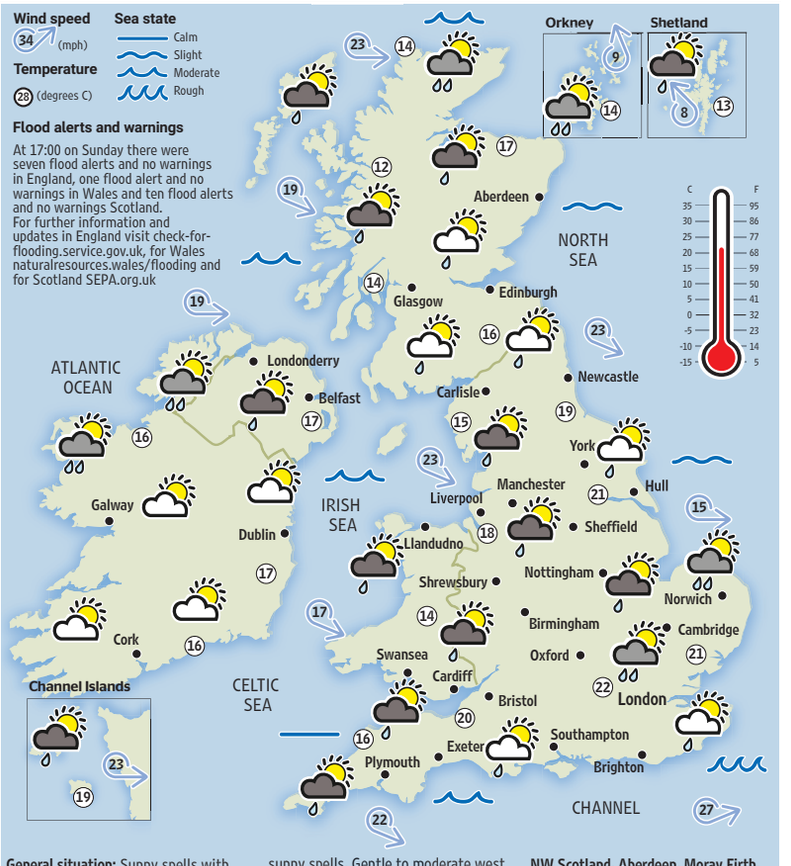


Saturday

Sunny periods with the chance of a shower in Ireland, Scotland and northern England. Dry in southern England and Wales with sunny spells.

Max 22C, min 6C

The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

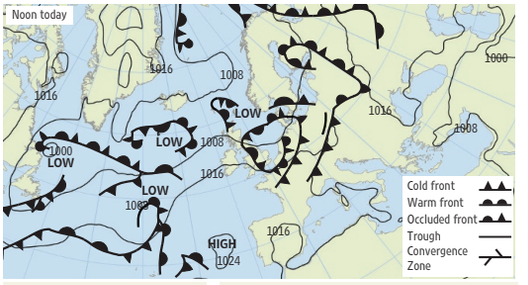


General situation: Sunny spells with the chance of a shower. Driest in the southeast of Ireland.
N Ireland, Republic of Ireland: A largely dry morning with spells of sunshine. Showers will spread into northern and western areas in the afternoon. Light to moderate westerly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 10C (50F).
SW Eng, Wales, Channel Is, NW Eng, IoM: Sunny periods and scattered showers through the morning. A largely dry afternoon with lengthy sunny spells. Gentle to moderate west or northwesterly winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 9C (48F).
London, SE Eng, Cen S Eng, Midlands, Cen N Eng, NE Eng, Lake District, E Eng, E Anglia: A few isolated heavy showers in East Anglia to start the morning. Elsewhere, a dry morning with sunny spells. Sunny periods with the chance of a heavy shower in the afternoon. Moderate west or northwesterly winds. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 9C (48F).
NW Scotland, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, N Isles: Sunny periods and scattered showers, some heavy. It will turn drier from the west into the afternoon. Moderate to strong west or southwesterly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 9C (48F).
Borders, SW Scotland, Cen Highland, Edinburgh and Dundee, Glasgow, Argyll: Sunny spells with the chance of an isolated shower. Moderate westerly winds. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 8C (46F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres. All times in local time

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	03:45	4.4	16:18	4.1
Avonmouth	10:02	12.6	22:17	12.8
Belfast	01:13	3.5	13:39	3.3
Cardiff	09:45	11.9	22:02	12.1
Devonport	08:37	5.2	20:48	5.4
Dover	01:23	6.6	13:41	6.8
Dublin	01:40	4.2	14:10	3.9
Falmouth	07:59	5.0	20:07	5.2
Greenock	02:54	3.6	15:12	3.3
Harwich	02:23	3.9	14:25	3.9
Holyhead	00:42	5.8	13:03	5.4
Hull	08:54	7.6	21:22	7.3
Leith	05:06	5.6	17:37	5.4
Liverpool	01:30	9.6	13:50	9.2
London Bridge	04:31	6.9	16:45	7.0
Lowestoft	00:05	2.4	12:05	2.7
Milford Haven	08:53	7.0	21:11	7.1
Morecambe	01:40	9.7	14:00	9.3
Newhaven	01:32	6.7	13:53	6.7
Newquay	07:44	6.9	20:02	7.0
Oban	08:13	3.8	20:39	4.0
Penzance	07:17	5.4	19:36	5.6
Portsmouth	01:47	4.6	14:19	4.7
Shoreham	01:36	6.2	13:56	6.3
Southampton	01:02	4.5	13:46	4.6
Swansea	09:00	9.2	21:16	9.4
Tees	06:05	5.6	18:41	5.4
Weymouth	09:42	2.0	21:52	2.1



Synoptic situation

An occlusion associated with a low pressure system in the North Sea will push scattered showers eastwards across England and Wales. A separate occlusion will bring scattered heavy showers to northern Scotland. A ridge of high pressure will push into southern Ireland bringing largely dry and more settled conditions with spells of sunshine.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Cavendish, Suffolk, 23.6C
Coldest: Cairngorm, 5.6C
Wettest: Levens Hall, Cumbria, 27.8mm
Sunniest: Tiree, 8.1hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 06.11
Sun sets: 19.49
Moon rises: 20.33
Moon sets: 11.33 Tue
Third quarter: September 4

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	20:38-05:40
Belfast	20:48-06:01
Birmingham	20:28-05:48
Cardiff	20:32-05:55
Exeter	20:32-05:58
Glasgow	20:44-05:52
Liverpool	20:34-05:51
London	20:19-05:43
Manchester	20:31-05:48
Newcastle	20:32-05:43
Norwich	20:16-05:35
Penzance	20:39-06:07
Sheffield	20:28-05:45

Weather Eye

Paul Simons

"August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time."
— Sylvia Plath, The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath

The last days of August have seen plenty of rain and already autumn seems to be beckoning in cooler, wetter and breezier conditions. The leaves on trees in particular seem to be in a headlong rush into autumn colours and falling to the ground, called a false autumn brought on by the summer heat and drought. A green flush is developing over much of England and Wales as a great resurrection emerges and grasses gradually turn green as fresh leaves grow again. This phenomenon is thanks to the growing tips of grasses protected by dead leaves, ready to be revived in the rain and springing back to life. Even the earth is healing itself as gaping cracks in soils baked dry in the long drought close up in the rainwater.

But some trees can never recover from a long drought. Beech trees are particularly susceptible given that they have an extensive shallow root system, and in 1976 many mature beech trees died or were left severely damaged. Many survivors never recovered and trees were still dying 40 years later. Birch and sycamore are sensitive to drought as they too have shallow roots, and the Woodland Trust reported that England's ancient oaks also suffered this summer. One casualty was the huge "Major Oak" in Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire that died in June, one of the largest and oldest oaks in Europe. This was the result of extreme hot, dry summers over recent years, particularly the extreme heatwave of July 2022.

As for English elm trees, these have never recovered from the devastating attack of Dutch elm disease in 1976. The disease was caused by a fungus spread by a bark beetle and by 1980 most mature English elms had died, and even when suckers regrew from the surviving roots of the trees, they succumbed to a new and more virulent fungus as waves of the disease swept the country again.

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 777675

8am to 5pm daily (calls are charged at £1.55 plus network extras)

WeatherQuest
weatherquest.co.uk

Explore. Plan. And now book with The Times.

The Times and Sunday Times is a unique and trusted source of travel inspiration. Now you can trust us to take you there too.

Call 0808 231 5090 or visit thetimes.com/holidays

TIMES Holidays

Bathrooms designed for **independent living**

Your journey to a **safer bathroom**

1. **Free home consultation**
2. **Free design & quote**
3. **Expert installation**
4. **Support & warranty**

★★★★★ Trustpilot

"Delighted!"

Everyone was helpful, friendly and caring. We can't wait to show our family and friends our new wetroom.

Mrs Crompton, Worcester

Walk-in baths
Built for ease & peace of mind

"Safe, easy access bathing can help maintain your independence and wellbeing."

Dr Hilary Jones - GP and Health advisor

MobilityPlus
www.mobility-plus.co.uk

For your FREE brochure freephone
0800 088 4810 quoting **MCK704**

MotoNovo

Car Finance Agreements Between 2007 & 2024

Customers of MotoNovo Finance have been refunded over **£2,260.87*** using our partner law firm. In less than 60 seconds, you could locate your old agreements that might be eligible for a refund.

Enter your basic details to get started.

✓ [redacted]

Agreements found: **2**
Average refund: **£2,260.87***

Find My Agreements*
Scan the QR Code →

Or visit:
makeapcpclaim.co.uk/times

Fountain Finances is a claims management company. You can complain for free directly to your lender, the Financial Ombudsman Service, or through the FCA's free motor finance redress scheme. We receive a referral fee from our partner law firm if you choose to proceed. *£2,260.87 is the average claim value per MotoNovo agreement of our partner law firm, HD Law as of July 31st 2025. *Our Free Check confirms whether motor finance agreements have been identified from your credit search and the number found. Further details of any agreements will be provided once HD Law is instructed.

Free guide to the Bayeux Tapestry

Don’t miss the glossy 16-page souvenir booklet written by experts. Only with The Times on Saturday.

Free with The Times this Saturday

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Sport

Pidcock follows fine Tour with mountain bike glory

Cycling
Sean Russell

Britain's Tom Pidcock displayed once again yesterday that he is one of the most versatile riders in the world with a dominant win at the UCI Mountain Bike World Championships, only a month after finishing ninth at the Tour de France.

The 27-year-old, from Leeds, started 35th in the elite cross-country race and had to fight through a packed field on the narrow tracks in Val di Sole, Italy. He did so patiently and caught the back of his fellow road rider, Mathieu van der Poel, who would finish 30th, and pass him. Only then did Pidcock start to make real progress.

It took him six of the eight laps of the course to reach the front four riders, which included GB team-mate Charlie Aldridge, and after a period of recovery, Pidcock lit up the race, exploding up a sharp climb to stun his rivals.

The group began to shed riders one by one as nobody could keep up with the double Olympic gold medallist and 2023 cross-country world champion. He may have last raced on a mountain bike at Nove Mesto in May but the discipline was Pidcock's first love.

Over the last two laps, Pidcock attacked again and again on the punchy hills until only Aldridge was on his wheel but soon the kick of Pidcock was too much. His lead grew and by the end it was more than 20 seconds. He high-fived spectators, crossed the line and lifted his Pinarello bike above his head after taking a second cross-country world championship to go with his two Olympic gold medals.

ALEX WHITEHEAD/SWPIX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Pidcock high-fives spectators on his ride to the line to secure a victory he dedicated to Finlay Tarling, who died at the Volta a Portugal earlier this month

Aldridge finished in second, 17sec behind his compatriot, after fighting back on the final lap to make it a GB one-two.

"I don't have many words, to be honest," a visibly emotional Pidcock said. "I want to dedicate this win to Fin Tarling and Josh and to see him start the Vuelta was incredible."

Nineteen-year-old Finlay Tarling died while racing at the Volta a Portugal earlier this month. His brother, Josh, rides for Pidcock's old team, Netcompany Ineos, and lined up at La Vuelta to honour his brother.

"Next year I'm not going to do as much mountain bike," Pidcock added. "I'll focus on the road and then return to mountain biking before LA [the 2028 Olympics]."

Stone shines for leaders Notts and Foakes ton saves Surrey

County Championship
Neville Scott

Teams start their final four games on Wednesday with play scheduled on 16 of 26 September days that will decide the championship. Nottinghamshire lead the pack in the top division, but by only four points over Somerset, eight from Warwickshire, with the rest trailing a further 19 or more behind.

The defending champions did their best yesterday to pull off the impossible in Birmingham, where they declared with two batting points secured but eight wickets down when Joe Clarke finally fell for 150. This robbed Warwickshire of a bowling point and, as Olly Stone added to the ten-wicket match haul that beat Surrey in the last game by bagging three in his new-ball spell, the home side wilted.

By mid-afternoon, at 114 for seven, they were 62 short of the follow-on figure but only 51 overs remained. Stone finished with five for 49 to bring maximum bowling points but Warwickshire, without a batting point in making 185, had avoided batting again.

Last-day excitement also stirred lower down the division. No play was possible between Yorkshire and Leicestershire, so **Surrey** would have slipped into the relegation zone if they had lost in Chelmsford to **Essex**. Resuming four down, they too faced strife at 144 for seven 20 minutes after lunch, just 48 runs ahead. First thing, Ben Foakes had escaped a caught-and-bowled chance to Simon Harmer, and the England wicketkeeper's eventual unbeaten 120 helped add 104 with Tom Lawes, out after tea with only 28 overs left. The draw followed 45 minutes later.

Bottom-placed **Hampshire** made their own late bid for survival by belting 108 from 68 balls to reach a lunch declaration at Cardiff on 300 for eight, challenging **Glamorgan** to chase 302 at 4.58 per over. Hampshire hopes rose when they slumped to 21 for three but rain then terminally intervened.

Somerset seemed more concerned with avoiding a slip-up against **Sussex** at Hove, where Tom Lammonby made a season's best 93. Though losing three wickets to the second new ball straight after lunch, they moved from 295 for six to declare at 350 for nine, leaving a nominal target of 303 at 6.89 in another draw.

In the second division, Middlesex, with seamer Naavya Sharma taking four for 36, shot out six men in seven overs before Derbyshire, three down overnight, succumbed for 131. Middlesex promptly then forfeited their reply but Derbyshire reaching 111 for three when the rain revisited.

Foakes makes a fine unbeaten century after being dropped early on

Results

Cricket

Rothesay County Championship
Division One: Essex v Surrey

Chelmsford (final day of four): Surrey (11pts) drew with Essex (12)

Surrey First Innings 183

Second Innings (overnight 51-4)

J W Blake c Pepper b Harmer	14
†B T Foakes not out	120
M K Lomror c Pepper b Porter	11
A R G Thomas c Pepper b Akhter	33
T E Lawes b Cook	44
R D Chahar not out	17
Extras (b 11, lb 9)	20
Total (8 wkts dec, 99 overs)	**298**

Fall of wickets 1-33, 2-34, 3-45, 4-51, 5-73, 6-92, 7-144, 8-248.

Bowling Porter 11-2-44-1; Cook 27-8-53-2; Harmer 38-13-92-3; Snater 6-1-21-1; Critchley 7-0-31-0; Akhter 8-0-24-1; Westley 1-0-5-0; Walter 1-0-8-0.

Essex First Innings 279 (D Elgar 113; R D Chahar 6 for 80)

Glamorgan v Hampshire

Sophia Gardens (final day of four): Hampshire (11pts) drew with Glamorgan (11)

Hampshire First Innings 162 (J S Lehmann 51 not out)

Second Innings (overnight 124-2)

T E Albert c Dickson b Kellaway	64
J S Lehmann b Ul-Hassan	36
T J Prest b Kellaway	15
*†B C Brown c and b Kellaway	30
A J Neal c Tribe b Crane	47
J K Fuller lbw b Kellaway	0
E V Jack not out	16
Extras (b 6, lb 3, nb 4)	13
Total (8 wkts dec, 69.3 overs)	**300**

Fall of wickets 1-70, 2-90, 3-173, 4-192, 5-215, 6-258, 7-258, 8-300.

Bowling van der Gugten 16-3-31-1; Hamza 15-2-42-1; Kellaway 15-0-78-4; Ul-Hassan 11.5-2-59-1; Douthwaite 5-1-29-0; Crane 6.4-0-52-1.

Glamorgan First Innings 161 (B I Kellaway 57; S Baker 4 for 34)

Second Innings

A M Tribe lbw b Abbott	0
M S Crane c Lehmann b Jack	7
*K S Carlson b Abbott	2
B I Kellaway not out	8
C A Ingram not out	3
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (3 wkts, 13.5 overs)	**21**

Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-8, 3-14.

Bowling Abbott 7-3-7-2; Jack 4-1-10-1; Baker 2.5-1-3-0.

Sussex v Somerset

Hove (final day of four): Somerset (11pts) drew with Sussex (12)

Somerset First Innings 202 (T B Abell 72, C Overton 54; H T Crocombe 5 for 56)

Second Innings (overnight 167-2)

T A Lammonby lbw b Crocombe	93
H M Nicholls c Coles b Evison	50
T B Abell b Hunt	37
†J E K Rew c Carson b Clark	27
C Overton c Carson b Evison	8
*L Gregory not out	32
M Pretorius c Simpson b Clark	2
M J Leach c Hunt b Carson	1
Extras (b 7, lb 5, w 2, nb 14)	28
Total (9 wkts dec, 97.2 overs)	**350**

Fall of wickets 1-92, 2-141, 3-198, 4-268, 5-283, 6-295, 7-334, 8-343, 9-350.

Bowling Unadkat 23-1-93-1; Hunt 15-4-48-2; Carson 21.2-2-66-1; Crocombe 17-3-53-1; Coles 7-0-21-0; Evison 11-2-40-2; Clark 3-0-17-2.

Sussex First Innings 250 (T G R Clark 85, J A Simpson 64 not out; C Overton 4 for 66)

Second Innings

D P Hughes c Abell b Pretorius	13
*T J Haines not out	30
T G R Clark not out	15
Extras (nb 4)	4
Total (1 wkt, 14 overs)	**62**

Fall of wicket 1-23.

Bowling Gregory 3-0-11-0; Overton 3-1-9-0; Vaughan 4-0-25-0; Pretorius 4-0-17-1.

Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

Edgbaston (final day of four): Nottinghamshire (13pts) drew with Warwickshire (10)

Nottinghamshire First Innings 299 (J M Clarke 146 not out, B J R Martindale 55)

Nottinghamshire First Innings (overnight 299-7)

J M Clarke c Yates b Bamber	150
F W Sheat not out	45
Extras (b 4, lb 8, nb 2)	14
Total (8 wkts dec, 88.1 overs)	**325**

O P Stone and D Y Pennington did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-16, 2-17, 3-105, 4-122, 5-148, 6-221, 7-256, 8-325.

Bowling Bamber 23.1-6-74-3; Hannon-Dalby 19-4-75-1; Barnard 18-3-53-1; Booth 15-5-46-1; Thompson 12-0-59-1; Mousley 1-0-6-1.

Warwickshire First Innings

R M Yates lbw b Stone	12
W A Young c Verreynne b Stone	13
D R Mousley lbw b Pennington	20
S R Hain lbw b Stone	8
V L Jani run out	18
*E G Barnard lbw b Martindale	10
†A L Davies c Verreynne b Stone	3
J A Thompson b Stone	26
M G Booth c and b Patterson-White	46
E R Bamber c James b Sheat	13
O J Hannon-Dalby not out	4
Extras (b 6, lb 3, w 1, nb 2)	12
Total (54.1 overs)	**185**

Fall of wickets 1-16, 2-29, 3-43, 4-64, 5-82, 6-89, 7-114, 8-147, 9-181.

Bowling Stone 13-4-49-5; Pennington 16-4-43-1; Sheat 12.1-2-49-1; Martindale 7-1-26-1; Patterson-White 6-1-9-1.

Yorkshire v Leicestershire

Scarborough (final day of four; no play): Leicestershire (11pts) drew with Yorkshire (9)

Yorkshire First Innings 263 (J H Wharton 70; G C H Hill 62)

Leicestershire First Innings 84

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Notts	10	4	1	5	16	28	**148**
Somerset	10	4	2	4	18	30	**144**
Warks	10	3	1	6	15	29	**140**
Glamorgan	10	3	3	4	14	27	**121**
Sussex	10	4	3	3	20	24	**120**
Essex	10	4	4	3	13	26	**119**
Yorkshire	10	3	3	4	13	24	**117**
Surrey	10	1	3	6	18	23	**105**
Leics	10	2	5	3	19	27	**102**
Hampshire	10	2	5	3	3	27	**86**

Division Two

Durham v Gloucestershire

Chester-le-Street (final day of four): Durham (22pts) beat Gloucestershire (3) by ten wickets

Gloucestershire First Innings 137 (J Bracey; K Aldridge 5 for 16)

Second Innings 250 (M Hammond 58; Aldridge 4 for 47)

Durham First Innings 384 (D Bedingham 122)

Second Innings

M Potts not out	4
†O Robinson not out	0
Total (no wkt, 1 over)	**4**

Bowling Price 1-0-4-0.

Derbyshire v Middlesex

Derby (final day of four): Middlesex (11pts) drew with Derbyshire (8)

Derbyshire First Innings (overnight 79-3)

C Jewell c Cracknell b Sharma	33
M Andersson c Robson b Sharma	9
†B Guest lbw b Sharma	0
A Dal c Cracknell b Helm	2
B Aitchison b Sharma	12
N Potts c Helm b Roland-Jones	11
S Bashir lbw b Helm0	
W Rogers not out	11
Extras (b 4, lb 9)	13
Total (49.1 overs)	**131**

Fall of wickets 1-24, 2-76, 3-76, 4-80, 5-80, 6-87, 7-101, 8-101, 9-101.

Bowling Roland-Jones 11.1-1-24-1; Higgins 13-7-19-2; Helm 13-4-39-3; Sharma 12-3-36-4.

Second Innings

H Came lbw b Roland-Jones	5
C Jewell b Sharma	15
M Montgomery lbw b Roland-Jones	38
*W Madsen not out	32
M Andersson not out	18
Extras (b 1, nb 2)	3
Total (3 wkts, 37 overs)	**111**

Fall of wickets 1-6, 2-48, 3-76.

Bowling Roland-Jones 9-1-24-2; Sharma 7-1-31-1; Higgins 11-3-28-0; Helm 8-1-23-0; Gohar 2-0-4-0.

Middlesex First Innings forfeit

Northamptonshire v Kent

Northampton (final day of four): Kent (12pts) drew with Northamptonshire (16)

Kent First Innings 345 (Z Crawley 89, D Bell-Drummond 70, B Compton 53)

Northamptonshire First Innings (overnight 74-0)

R Vasconcelos lbw b Singh	119
*L Procter c Benjamin b Stewart	28
C Harrison lbw b Parkinson	21
N McSweeney lbw b Dudgeon	109
S Zaib lbw b Parkinson	72
J Sales not out	48
G Bartlett c Compton b Stewart	24
†L McManus not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 9, nb 14, w 2)	29
Total (6 wkts dec, 97.1 overs)	**450**

L Guthrie, B Sanderson and Y Chahal did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-91, 2-144, 3-227, 4-351, 5-403, 6-449

Bowling Milnes 7-0-19-0; Dudgeon 20-1-71-1; Parkinson 27.1-0-158-2; Stewart 19-2-57-2; Singh 17-1-77-1; Muyeye 7-0-55-0.

Worcestershire v Lancashire

Worcester (final day of four): Lancashire (11pts) drew with Worcestershire (12)

Lancashire First Innings 180 (K Jennings 55; B Swanepoel 4 for 37)

Second Innings

K Jennings not out	2
†M Hurst not out	0
Total (no wkt, 2 overs)	**2**

Bowling Taylor 1-0-1-0; Allison 1-0-1-0.

Worcestershire First Innings (overnight 12-1)

J Libby c Hurst b Bailey	56
R Edavalath lbw b Balderson	42
A Hose b Balderson	0
*B D'Oliveira c and b Balderson	45
B Swanepoel not out	63
†H Cullen c Shetty b Walkden	15
M Waite b Balderson	9
T Taylor not out	20
Extras (lb 1, nb 12)	13
Total (7 wkts dec, 62 overs)	**263**

Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-87, 3-87, 4-121, 5-180, 6-203, 7-214.

Bowling Bailey 15-5-51-2; Aspinwall 8-1-51-0; Balderson 19-2-78-4; Walkden 11-1-51-1; Ali 9-0-31-0.

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bwl	Pts
Durham	10	7	0	3	27	28	**191**
Kent	10	5	1	4	19	25	**151**
Northants	10	4	2	4	27	28	**151**
Worcs	10	4	3	3	15	26	**127**
Middlesex	10	3	4	3	13	28	**113**
Derbyshire	10	3	5	2	21	25	**110**
Lancashire	10	2	5	3	10	28	**94**
Gloucs	10	1	9	0	6	24	**44**

Cycling

Vuelta a España

Leading positions: Stage 9 (Villajoyosa to Alto de Aitana, 187.5km): 1, E Mas (Sp, Movistar) 5hr 10min 40sec; 2, O Onley (GB, Netcompany INEOS) same time; 3, P Roglic (Slove. Red Bull-BORA-hansgrohe) at 12sec. **Overall** 1, Mas 28:34:03; 2, Roglic at 1:18; 3, F Gall (Austria, Decathlon CMA CGM) 1:39; 4, Onley 2:20.

Golf

DP World Tour British Masters

Sutton Coldfield: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **274** J Dean 67, 73, 71, 63. **277** I Elvira (Sp) 65, 71, 72, 69; N Noergaard (Den) 71, 68, 67, 71; D Hillier (NZ) 69, 66, 69, 73; J Skov Olesen (Den) 67, 72, 67, 71. **278** M Penge 69, 65, 72, 72; T McKibbin (N Ire) 68, 68, 70, 72; T Rosenmüller (Ger) 71, 71, 68, 68.

US PGA Tour Championship

Atlanta: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **195** V Hovland (Nor) 64, 66, 65. **196** R Gerard 65, 65, 66. **198** L Aaberg (Swe) 65, 68, 65; C Gotterup 64, 67, 67; S Scheffler 65, 67, 66; A Scott (Aus) 66, 67, 65. **200** R McIlroy (N Ire) 68, 69, 63; C Young 70, 62, 68. **201** J Bridgeman 68, 67, 66; S Burns 66, 68, 67; R Henley 70, 65, 66; Lee Min-woo (Aus) 62, 73, 66.

KPMG Women's Irish Open

County Kildare: Leading final scores: 268 C Alexander (SA) 63 66 69 70. **271** S Kouskova (Cz) 68 66 67 70. **272** N Komulainen (Fin) 73 66 66 67. **273** L Maguire (Ire) 71 71 63 68, L Rydqvist (Swe) 68 67 69 69.

LPGA FM Championship

Norton, Massachusetts: Leading final scores: 274 Yin Ruoning (China) 71, 65, 68, 70. **276** Kim Hyo-joo (S Kor) 68, 67, 70, 71. **277** A Corpuz (US) 68, 67, 74, 68. **278** R Zhang (US) 72, 68, 70, 68; Kim Sei-young (S Kor) 64, 74, 67, 73.

Motorcycling

MotoGP Grand Prix of Aragon

Alcañiz: Leading positions 1, Márquez (Sp, Ducati) 41min 10.969sec; 2, P Acosta (Sp, KTM) at 1.754sec; 3, M Bezzecchi (It, Aprilia) 3.629. **Championship** 1, J Martín (Sp, Aprilia 256pts; 2, Márquez 237; 3, Bezzecchi 232.

Rugby league

Betfred Super League Hull 14 Warrington 16; Toulouse 28 Bradford 18; Wakefield 28 York 12.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	25	20	0	5	884	368	**40**
Wigan	25	20	0	5	761	419	**40**
Warrington	25	19	0	6	682	426	**38**
Wakefield	25	17	0	8	665	460	**34**
Leigh	25	16	0	9	588	468	**32**
Hull KR	25	15	0	10	700	461	**30**
St Helens	25	14	0	11	590	554	**28**
Catalans D	25	10	0	15	509	724	**20**
Toulouse	25	9	0	16	520	648	**18**
Castleford	25	8	0	17	426	786	**16**
Hull	25	7	0	18	440	541	**14**
Huddersfield	25	7	0	18	455	713	**14**
York	25	7	0	18	482	759	**14**
Bradford	25	6	0	19	420	795	**12**

Betfred Championship Batley 16 Salford 18; Dewsbury 6 Newcastle 56; Goole Vikings 14 Doncaster 36; Halifax 18 Keighley 19; Midlands Hurricanes 98 North Wales Crusaders 0; Rochdale 14 Oldham 32; Workington 20 Whitehaven 29.

Snooker

Wuhan Open

Final: Chang Bingyu (China) bt Zhao Xintong (China) 10-7 (frame scores, Chang first: 24-84 (76 break), 9-70, 76-11 (76), 97-18, 55-64 (64, 54), 67-17, 38-91 (83), 121-8 (67), 69-57 (53), 82-33 (62), 74-48 (57), 63-74 (CB 57), 12-71 (60), 49-74, 90-37 (73), 74-57, 66-64).

Tennis

US Open

Flushing Meadows: First round (seeds in brackets): **Men** K Majchrzak (Pol) bt H Medjedovic (Ser) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; D Merida (Sp) bt M Fucsovics (Hun) 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; Wu Yibing (China) bt A Walton (Aus) 7-6 (2), 6-2, 7-5; (18) J Lehecka (Cz) bt P Carreno Busta (Sp) 6-1, 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-2; (26) A Rinderknech (Fr) bt S Shimabukuro (Japan) 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2; L Harris (SA) bt J Kennedy (US) 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; D Prizmic (Cro) bt A Shevchenko (Russ) 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5; (20) T Paul (US) bt C Wong (HK) 6-7 (3-7), 6-1, 6-3, 6-3; (7) D Medvedev (Russ) bt H Gaston (Fr) 6-4, 6-2, 6-4. **Women** (19) J Paolini (It) bt V Erjavec (Slove) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; K Rakhimova (Russ) bt (27) B Krejcikova (Cz) 7-6 (7-4), 6-2; (3) J Pegula (US) bt E Ruse (Rom) 6-3, 6-2; D Vekic (Cro) bt T Gibson (Aus) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; P Iatcenko (Russ) bt R Zarazua (Mex) 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7); (31) L Fernandez (Can) bt Zhang Shuai (China) 6-3, 6-2; (11) M Kostyuk (Ukr) bt S Hunter (Aus) 6-4, 6-1; Wang Xinyu (China) bt E Arango (Col) 6-4, 6-2; L Tararudee (Thai) bt E Kalieva (US) 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2.

Ripon
Rob Wright

1.55 Arenite **4.10** Our Absent Friends
2.30 Feelin' Free **4.45** Trucial Pearl
3.05 Pure Mint **5.20** Ten Sixty Six
3.40 Mr Professor **5.50** Jam Lass

Going: good-good to soft in places
Draw: 5f-6f, high numbers best
Sky Sports Racing

1.55 Maiden Stakes
(2-Y-O: £5,757: 6f) (8 runners)

1 (5) 0 **DEE'S MOCHAFELLA** 16 Fionn McSharry 9-7 **D Tudhope**
2 (1) 4 **HARRY WHO** 61 R & P Fahey 9-7 **O Orr**
3 (8) 20 **MY BOO BOO** 53 Brian Toomey 9-7 **T Marquand**
4 (4) **BREWSTER** M & D Easterby 9-4 **B Garritty**
5 (2) **BLACK GIN** I Furtado 9-2 **J Hart**
6 (7) 5245 **OURAGAN** 20 (BF) A Watson 9-2 **O Murphy**
7 (3) 43355 **TRAVELLERS GIRL** 24 Roger Fell 9-2 **K Stott**
8 (6) 22 **ARENITE** 30 M Dods 8-13 **C Beasley**

13-8 Arenite, 4-1 My Boo Boo, 11-2 Travellers Girl, 6-1 Harry Who, 13-2 Ouragan, 14-1 Brewster, Black Gin, 33-1 Dee's Mochafella.

Rob Wright's choice: Arenite, a fair second at Doncaster; can open her account **Dangers**: Ouragan, Travellers Girl

2.30 Novice Stakes
(£5,234: 1m 3f) (5)

1 (4) 3/ **MASTERLY** 1077 C Johnston 5-9-12 **O Stammers**
2 (3) 1 **TIME THIEF** 26 Tom Clover 3-9-11 **D Egan**
3 (5) 442 **PEACE BELLE** 12 (BF) J Candlish 5-9-5 **J Hart**
4 (1) 2-4 **WHY NOT ME** 13 S C Williams 4-9-5 **O Murphy**
5 (2) 25 **FEELIN' FREE** 12 Jack Jones 3-8-11 **C Beasley**

4-6 Peace Belle, 4-1 Time Thief, 15-2 Masterly, 8-1 Why Not Me, 10-1 Feelin' Free.

Wright choice: Feelin' Free was unsuited by a slow early pace when only fifth at Kempton **Danger**: Time Thief

3.05 Stakes (Listed)
(2-Y-O: £30,811: 6f) (8)

1 (2) 23105 **CLASH OF HEARTS** 12 (P,D) A Keatley 9-5 **MP Sheehy**
2 (7) 42213 **HARRY KNOWS** 21 (P,BF,D) R Hughes 9-5 **P J McDonald**
3 (3) 410 **NAPA** 95 (BF) K P De Foy 9-5 **J Hart**
4 (5) 1 **PURE MINT** 35 (CD) S & E Crisford 9-5 **H Davies**
5 (8) 4145 **BEAR LEE** 12 M & D Easterby 9-0 **B Garritty**
6 (4) 11 **NOT MY TYPE** 18 W Haggas 9-0 **T Marquand**
7 (1) 11 **ROGUE JEWEL** 16 (CD) E Bethell 9-0 **D Tudhope**
8 (6) 10 **SILENT BEAUTY** 73 (D) K P De Foy 9-0 **D Egan**

7-2 Pure Mint, 4-1 Rogue Jewel, 9-2 Not My Type, 5-1 Clash Of Hearts, 11-2 Silent Beauty, 8-1 Napa, 12-1 Harry Knows, 14-1 Bear Lee.

Wright choice: Pure Mint made an impressive debut here; can follow up **Dangers**: Not My Type, Rogue Jewel

3.40 Handicap (£15,462: 1m) (9)

1 (4) 16020 **ENGLISH OAK** 31 (D) H Al Jehani (UAE) 6-10-4 **H Vigors (5)**
2 (7) -0000 **THUNDER ROAR** 87 (P,D) T Coyle & K Wood 7-9-9 **D Nolan**
3 (6) 00000 **MIRSKY** 11 (D) D O'Meara 7-9-7 **M Winn**
4 (3) 56-62 **MR PROFESSOR** 12 (D) K P De Foy 7-9-3 **D Egan**
5 (9) -0110 **RACINGBREAKS RYDER** 12 (D) C Hills 6-9-2 **O Murphy**
6 (5) 32643 **SPOKEN TRUTH** 20 (T,BF) D O'Meara 5-9-1 **D Tudhope**
7 (8) -0105 **MILTEYE** 23 (CD) H Bethell 6-8-13 **E Tindall (5)**
8 (1) 1-002 **FIREFALL** 68 E Bethell 3-8-12 **O Orr**
9 (2) 12 **MAJESTIC DANE** 193 K R Burke 3-8-10 **C Lee**

5-2 Majestic Dane, 4-1 Spoken Truth, Firefall, 9-2 English Oak, 10-1 Mirsky, 12-1 Mr Professor, 14-1 Racingbreaks Ryder, 16-1 Milteye, 33-1 Thunder Roar.

Wright choice: Mr Professor can finally take advantage of a falling handicap mark **Dangers**: Spoken Truth, English Oak

4.10 Handicap (£4,711: 5f) (9)

1 (9) 01015 **OUR ABSENT FRIENDS** 5 (BF,CD) T Davidson 8-10-0 **J Hart**
2 (7) 12144 **ROCK OF ENGLAND** 17 (CD) P Midgley 6-10-0 **O Murphy**
3 (8) 21131 **THORNABY PEARL** 14 (C,D) Adrian Nicholls 8-9-11 **O Carmichael (7)**
4 (5) 24362 **MARK'S CHOICE** 16 (P,CD) G Tutty 10-9-9 **C Beasley**
5 (1) 52022 **CANARIA QUEEN** 5 (P,CD) T Easterby 6-9-6 **D Fentiman**
6 (3) 62346 **BETWEENTHESTICKS** 14 (P,D) R Carr 6-9-5 **JP Sullivan**
7 (2) 15066 **GLORY FIGHTER** 24 (D) P Midgley 10-9-5 **D Nolan**
8 (6) 65420 **MARAJITO** 9 (CD) T Easterby 4-9-5 **O McSweeney**
9 (4) 06112 **HAPPIER** 13 (D) M Keighley 6-9-0 **H Vigors (5)**

100-30 Thornaby Pearl, 4-1 Our Absent Friends, 5-1 Mark's Choice, Happier, 6-1 Canaria Queen, 8-1 Rock Of England, 14-1 Betweenthesticks, 20-1 others.

Wright choice: Our Absent Friends can bounce back at this lower level **Dangers**: Rock Of England, Thornaby Pearl

4.45 Classified Stakes
(Div I: £3,664: 1m 2f) (10)

1 (10) 24602 **COPPER AND FIVE** 18 (P,C) R Carr 10-9-9 **JP Sullivan**
2 (3) 05344 **INSPIRING SPEECHES** 31 (P,D) Sara Ender 5-9-9 **E Tindall (5)**
3 (8) 02264 **LITTLE TED** 16 (H,CD) T Easterby 9-9-9 **D Allan**
4 (2) 0/443 **ROGERS DREAM** 31 Gihan Arnolda 5-9-9 **O Murphy**
5 (4) 65054 **TOP GUN TINA** 58 D Thompson 6-9-9 **C Hardie**
6 (1) 44343 **VOLENTI** 43 S England 7-9-9 **O Orr**
7 (7) 3-005 **DUE TO SHINE** 31 (P) B Ellison 3-9-2 **C Beasley**
8 (5) 00000 **PRINCESS COCO** 77 (B) S Whitaker 3-9-2 **A Elliott**
9 (9) 53144 **TRUCIAL PEARL** 6 (V,C) M & D Easterby 3-9-2 **Joanna Mason**
10 (6) 004 **TWIN AND TONIC** 39 Roger Fell 3-9-2 **C Horgan (5)**

7-2 Trucial Pearl, 9-2 Volenti, 5-1 Rogers Dream, 6-1 Copper And Five, 7-1 Little Ted, 8-1 Inspiring Speeches, Top Gun Tina, 16-1 Due To Shine.

Wright choice: Trucial Pearl won on her only previous start at this track; solid claims **Dangers**: Little Ted, Copper And Five

5.20 Classified Stakes
(Div II: £3,664: 1m 2f) (10)

1 (7) 14063 **BACK FROM DUBAI** 18 S Bowring 9-9-9 **D Egan**
2 (1) 60064 **EVELYN'S PHOENIX** 15 (P,T,CD) T Easterby 5-9-9 **D Allan**
3 (10) 04306 **GOLDEN SAMBA** 63 Miss T Jackson 4-9-9 **Joanna Mason**
4 (9) 00303 **QUIRKE ON PAROLE** 26 (D) M Walford 4-9-9 **J Hart**
5 (5) 66000 **TIBERIO FORCE** 16 (B,CD) S Whitaker 7-9-9 **M Winn**
6 (2) 00000 **WHERES THE CRUMPET** 37 (P,D) D Thompson 8-9-9 **A Brookes**
7 (8) 30450 **BALANCE OF TRADE** 20 Gary Rutherford 3-9-2 **R Elliott (5)**
8 (3) 00000 **CAPTAIN BRUCE** 63 (W,T,D) A Crook 3-9-2 **C Hardie**
9 (4) 0060 **RETRO ROCKET** 25 (P) M Keighley 3-9-2 **H Vigors (5)**
10 (6) 00465 **TEN SIXTY SIX** 18 D O'Meara 3-9-2 **D Tudhope**

7-2 Quirke On Parole, 4-1 Back From Dubai, 9-2 Evelyn's Phoenix, 6-1 Ten Sixty Six, 7-1 Golden Samba, 10-1 Wheres The Crumpet, Retro Rocket, 12-1 Tiberio Force.

Wright choice: Ten Sixty Six should improve for this trip; this is a weak race **Dangers**: Quirke On Parole, Back From Dubai

5.50 Handicap (£3,477: 1m 3f) (10)

1 (4) 20505 **SPIRIT CATCHER** 21 (BF,C) P Kirby 7-11-2 **D Perrin (7)**
2 (5) 106-0 **JAM LASS** 133 P Niven 5-11-2 **J Brown (5)**
3 (6) 12045 **IT'S ONLY FUN** 25 (P,D) Sara Ender 4-11-1 **A Blakemore (3)**
4 (9) 55451 **WOODLEIGH** 9 (C) Roger Fell 5-10-13 **E Cagney**
5 (8) 01340 **KITSUNE POWER** 16 (P) T Easterby 7-10-12 **Miss A Collier**
6 (3) -0055 **COUGAR** 47 M Chapman 7-10-12 **Miss S Watson (7)**
7 (7) 53212 **STAR START** 14 (P,CD) R Carr 6-10-11 **Miss C Parker (5)**
8 (10) 00050 **THREE YORKSHIREMEN** 41 (D) Jack Jones 6-10-10 **Miss M Boucher**
9 (2) -2006 **GLITTER CODE** 26 (P) E Bethell 4-10-10 **Miss N Biker (7)**
10 (1) 52040 **ON THE BUBBLE** 4 Gary Rutherford 5-10-3 **Miss E Brown (5)**

5-2 Star Start, 100-30 Woodleigh, 4-1 Spirit Catcher, 15-2 It's Only Fun, 10-1 Glitter Code, 12-1 Three Yorkshiremen, Kitsune Power, 16-1 Jam Lass.

Wright choice: Jam Lass was too keen early on at Redcar; she remains unexposed **Dangers**: Spirit Catcher, Star Start

Southwell
Rob Wright

1.32 Cosmic Mystery **3.51** Power Strike
2.07 Sound Gloria **4.25** Roi De Coeur
2.42 Golspie **5.00** Dicko The Legend
3.17 Peaceful Spirit **5.35** Golden Harvest

Going: standard
Draw: no advantage **Sky Sports Racing**

1.32 Fillies' Stakes
(2-Y-O: £5,400: 5f) (10)

1 (8) 0652 **BEAUTIFUL EFFORT** 18 I Mohammed & J Santos 9-2 **S De Sousa**
2 (5) 26 **CHIWARA** 60 (BF) R & P Fahey 9-2 **B McHugh**
3 (9) 4U20 **COSMIC MYSTERY** 17 A Watson 9-2 **L Morris**
4 (4) 0224 **DELIGHFULLY HOT** 13 (BF) James Owen 9-2 **C Fallon**
5 (1) 5 **ESTUPENDA** 124 Joey Ramsden 9-2 **A Jary (3)**
6 (10) 22 **KOKUMI** 13 Dr R Newland 9-2 **G Mangan**
7 (6) 2305 **QUIET SOUL** 45 M Herrington 9-2 **S M Levey**
8 (7) **SAYIDAH DUBAWI** J Tate 9-2 **B Loughnane**
9 (3) 35 **SIOUX MOON** 13 C Fellowes 9-2 **P Bradley**
10 (2) 43243 **VIKING BARBIE** 18 Ollie Sangster 9-2 **M Ghiani**

5-2 Cosmic Mystery, 5-1 Kokumi, 6-1 Sayidah Dubawi, Delighfully Hot, 13-2 Beautiful Effort, 8-1 Viking Barbie, 10-1 Chiwara, 14-1 Sioux Moon.

2.07 Handicap (£3,768: 1m 6f) (7)

1 (1) 10022 **LE ROUGE CHINOIS** 14 (P,D) M Appleby 6-10-0 **S De Sousa**
2 (2) 4600/ **TROPICAL TALENT** J451 (W,T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 7-9-13 **H Russell**
3 (7) 04513 **EDWARDTHENINTH** 64 A Forbes 5-9-9 **G Mangan**
4 (4) 55043 **LEDNIKOV** 16 (B,CD) I Furtado 8-9-8 **Elle-May Croot (5)**
5 (5) 56613 **BLUE TULIP** 16 (P) W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-7 **B Loughnane**
6 (6) 00312 **SOUND GLORIA** 16 (BF) R Varian 3-9-7 **R Dawson**
7 (3) 006 **BE HOPEFUL** 26 D Menuisier 3-9-4 **S M Levey**

2-1 Le Rouge Chinois, 4-1 Sound Gloria, 6-1 Blue Tulip, Lednikov, 13-2 Tropical Talent, 7-1 Edwardtheninth, 12-1 Be Hopeful.

2.42 Handicap (£4,397: 1m 3f) (8)

1 (3) 43214 **EVERYONEKNOWSADAVE** 28 (CD) Jessica Macey 4-10-2 **L Wright (3)**
2 (6) 44012 **BEARWITH** 19 (CD) H Bethell 8-9-11 **T Kiely-Marshall (5)**
3 (1) -0313 **FAEBERON** 23 (P) S & E Crisford 3-9-6 **J Mitchell**
4 (4) 33522 **SAXOPHONIST** 23 D O'Meara 3-9-5 **C Whiteley (5)**
5 (7) 2-320 **NEW BAY STAR** 33 M Appleby 3-9-5 **A Rawlinson**
6 (5) 44363 **GOLSPIE** 25 (P) P Morris 6-9-3 **B Loughnane**
7 (2) 0604 **PACE ATTACK** 14 Sir M Prescott 3-9-0 **L Morris**
8 (8) -0000 **CARWYN** 35 (P) P Morris 3-8-7 **B McHugh**

7-2 Saxophonist, 4-1 Faeberon, Bearwith, 9-2 Pace Attack, 6-1 Golspie, 8-1 Everyoneknowsadave, 10-1 New Bay Star, 66-1 Carwyn.

3.17 Handicap (£3,768: 1m) (14)

1 (13) 13405 **AVATAR JET** 12 (CD) D Carroll 5-9-9 **Z Wheatley**
2 (6) 01002 **VOLTO DI MEDUSA** 32 (B,CD) Jack Jones 5-9-8 **C Fallon**
3 (11) 62614 **RELEVANT RANGE** 32 (CD) I Furtado 7-9-7 **Elle-May Croot (5)**
4 (3) 03155 **RUSHEEN BOY** 34 (T,C) J & S Birkett 5-9-7 **S M Levey**
5 (1) 40666 **PORTMAN BLUE** 32 (T,BF) J Parr 4-9-7 **L Morris**
6 (14) 00602 **IZZARI** 20 (D) I Jardine 5-9-7 **A Mullen**
7 (9) 6/4-6 **PEACEFUL SPIRIT** 15 L Mullaney 4-9-6 **A Rawlinson**
8 (5) 06050 **ASPULL** 9 (H) P McEntee 4-9-5 **Grace McEntee**
9 (12) 50434 **JUST TYPICAL** 25 (T,BF,CD) I Williams 5-9-5 **B Loughnane**
10 (2) 55065 **SOAMES FORSYTE** 26 (P,CD) M Herrington 7-9-4 **T Eaves**
11 (4) 05232 **BAJAN BANDIT** 11 (V,CD) P Morris 6-9-4 **P Bradley**
12 (7) 4-650 **SPECIAL BREEZE** 103 (W) Mrs P Sly 4-9-2 **K O'Neill**
13 (8) 14411 **AIM FOR THE BULL** 63 (P,C,D) M Murphy 4-9-1 **R Hornby**
14 (10) -3145 **MR FUSTIC** 104 (P,T,CD) Andi Brown 8-9-1 **M Ghiani**

9-2 Aim For The Bull, 5-1 Izzari, 6-1 Volto Di Medusa, Bajan Bandit, 8-1 Just Typical, 10-1 Portman Blue, 14-1 others.

3.51 Handicap
(Div I: 3-Y-O: £4,397: 1m) (10)

1 (6) 32500 **WIELD** 11 (T) J Parr 9-9 **L Morris**
2 (1) 26615 **FILLY EILISH** 25 (BF,CD) I Furtado 9-9 **S De Sousa**
3 (10) 11266 **LEGACY ROCK** 11 (T,D) Dr R Newland 9-8 **B Loughnane**
4 (9) 40256 **MAYFLOWER BILLY** 60 (P) Jessica Macey 9-6 **S M Levey**
5 (4) 53320 **SILKY LASS** 64 (D) Joey Ramsden 9-6 **A Jary (3)**
6 (5) 600 **POWER STRIKE** 144 J Camacho 9-5 **R Sexton**
7 (3) 4-54 **TEST RUN** 30 M & D Easterby 9-4 **S Farmer (5)**
8 (7) 6-045 **DACRES CROSS** 54 (BF) K Ryan 9-4 **T Eaves**
9 (2) 50463 **VEGA STORM** 21 R & P Fahey 9-2 **H Russell**
10 (8) 46604 **SAILOR'S RETURN** 28 (T) D O'Meara 9-0 **C Fallon**

3-1 Vega Storm, 7-2 Filly Eilish, 9-2 Dacres Cross, 7-1 Sailor's Return, 8-1 Legacy Rock, 12-1 Power Strike, 14-1 Test Run, Mayflower Billy.

4.25 Handicap
(Div II: 3-Y-O: £4,397: 1m) (9)

1 (9) 65125 **ROI DE COEUR** 21 (BF,D) M Botti 9-9 **M Ghiani**
2 (5) -5003 **TARADIF** 16 (T) Jessica Macey 9-8 **S M Levey**
3 (6) -5000 **BOY NAMED SIOUX** 9 (C) R & P Fahey 9-6 **W Fentiman (3)**
4 (1) -0514 **JACKABI** 25 (T) M Rimell 9-6 **R Hornby**
5 (8) 56014 **WISE CRACK** 21 (P) R Carr 9-5 **S Gray**
6 (2) 2-064 **BALLYBUNION** 21 M Bell 9-5 **C Shepherd**
7 (3) 26503 **ALKUMATIC JO JO** 21 I Furtado 9-4 **S De Sousa**
8 (4) 44063 **KIANI KING** 35 (T,BF) H Morrison 9-2 **B Loughnane**
9 (7) 32166 **HUNTERIAN** 45 (D) C Johnston 9-1 **A Mullen**

3-1 Kiani King, 4-1 Roi De Coeur, 6-1 Wise Crack, Alkumatic Jo Jo, 13-2 Ballybunion, 8-1 Taradif, 12-1 Jackabi, Hunterian, 20-1 Boy Named Sioux.

5.00 Handicap (£5,234: 6f) (12)

1 (6) 11112 **CLASSY CLARETS** 14 (H,D) I Jardine 5-9-9 **S Farmer (5)**
2 (12) 34065 **HIERARCHY** 16 (B,T,CD) J Osborne 7-9-9 **W Carver**
3 (3) 5-55 **MARIANNE MOZART** 31 I Mohammed & J Santos 4-9-9 **S De Sousa**
4 (7) 45005 **TRAVEL AGENT** 14 (E,D) Adam Kirby 4-9-7 **S M Levey**
5 (9) 1161- **SOLE SPIRIT** 354 (D) B Smart 4-9-6 **P Mulrennan**
6 (10) 25204 **CAIRDEAS** 25 P Midgley 4-9-6 **T Eaves**
7 (1) 34563 **DICKO THE LEGEND** 14 (D) L Bailey 6-9-5 **B Loughnane**
8 (5) 00530 **HECTIC** 14 (B,T,CD) L Bailey 6-9-5 **J Garritty**
9 (2) 6-234 **BABA REZA** 25 (P,D) J Camacho 8-9-4 **T Kiely-Marshall (5)**
10 (11) 35360 **JESSE LUC** 25 (P,T,CD) M Murphy 6-9-3 **C Shepherd**
11 (8) 06022 **THUNDEROUS LOVE** 20 (P,BF,CD) J Portman 5-9-2 **R Hornby**
12 (4) 25205 **FANTASY OBSESSOR** 38 (CD) M Appleby 4-9-1 **R Dawson**

4-1 Thunderous Love, 9-2 Dicko The Legend, 5-1 Classy Clarets, 8-1 Baba Reza, 10-1 Marianne Mozart, Travel Agent, 12-1 Sole Spirit, Cairdeas.

5.35 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,768: 6f) (14)

1 (2) 13641 **SURGEON COMMANDER** 67 (B) Craig Lidster 9-9 **B Loughnane**
2 (10) 32506 **TAAKLAM** 23 (P) H Bethell 9-9 **T Kiely-Marshall (5)**
3 (13) -3005 **HARLEQUIN BAY** 42 R & P Fahey 9-8 **J Garritty**
4 (14) 63035 **LOVE ALIVE** 26 J Butler 9-8 **Doubtful**
5 (1) -4300 **MASAI ANGEL** 23 R & P Fahey 9-8 **H Russell**
6 (6) 500 **ROGUE FEDERATION** 39 K Frost 9-7 **W Pyle**
7 (8) 04612 **YES WALIIM** 14 (P) R Hughes 9-6 **O Hoodless (7)**
8 (11) 01034 **BASED** 32 W Knight 9-5 **C Fallon**
9 (7) 00350 **SOUL WARRIOR** 24 (V,D) N Tinkler 9-4 **A Jary (3)**
10 (5) 05450 **GREAT SUCCESS** 15 (B) S Dixon 9-3 **K O'Neill**
11 (3) 0053 **GOLDEN HARVEST** 39 Steph Hollinshead 9-3 **D Costello**
12 (12) 463- **ZONNEBLOEM** 315 Jessica Macey 9-3 **S M Levey**
13 (9) 24430 **LOPE Y LINDA** 9 T Easterby 9-2 **S B Kirrane**
14 (4) 600 **SOCIETY CHARM** 140 P Chapple-Hyam 9-1 **M Ghiani**

5-2 Surgeon Commander, 100-30 Yes Waliim, 6-1 Based, 15-2 Taaklam, 8-1 Golden Harvest, 14-1 Soul Warrior, Lope Y Linda, 16-1 Zonnebloem.

Chepstow
Rob Wright

1.45 Naval Cop **4.00** Rovinia
2.20 Washington Royale **4.35 Thanos** (nap)
2.55 Geemann **5.10** Control Room
3.30 Escape Magic **5.45** Stipulation

Going: good to soft
Draw: no advantage
Sky Sports Racing

1.45 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,768: 5f) (6)

1 (4) 6050 **COURSEYOUDO** 60 T Lacey 9-9 **W Cox**
2 (2) 03522 **CRYSTAL KRAKEN** 22 (BF) D Cunha 9-5 **R Ryan**
3 (3) 30234 **OUR FELLA** 22 (P) J S Moore 9-5 **Ashley Lewis (3)**
4 (1) 042 **LION OF PERSIA** 47 R Cowell 9-5 **E Greatrex**
5 (5) 465 **NAVAL COP** 36 A Balding 9-4 **A Redman (7)**
6 (6) 06364 **DEVON ANGEL** 2 B Millman 8-3 **Laura Coughlan (3)**

13-8 Crystal Kraken, 11-4 Lion Of Persia, 5-1 Naval Cop, 15-2 Our Fella, 8-1 Courseyoudo, 10-1 Devon Angel.

2.20 Maiden Stakes
(2-Y-O: £5,400: 6f) (7)

1 (4) 360 **ANNA BELARDO** 102 Dr R Newland 9-7 **Ashley Lewis (3)**
2 (7) 532 **BEECHWOOD GLORY** 23 (BF) J Butler 9-7 **L Edmunds**
3 (5) 0 **CONSCIENTIOUS** 32 A Watson 9-7 **W Cox**
4 (2) 24203 **ISCHGL** 31 Ciaran Murphy (Ire) 9-7 **R Ryan**
5 (1) 022 **TEXAS CROWN** 31 Daisy Hitchins 9-7 **W Carson**
6 (6) 455 **WASHINGTON ROYALE** 34 M Appleby 9-7 **P Dobbs**
7 (3) 00 **FOXSBRUSH** 26 J Ryan 9-2 **F Marsh**

2-1 Ischgl, 5-2 Washington Royale, 7-2 Beechwood Glory, 9-2 Texas Crown, 10-1 Anna Belardo, 50-1 Foxsbrush, 66-1 Conscientious.

2.55 Maiden Stakes (£5,400: 6f) (6)

1 (2) **LUCKY RADAR** B Millman 3-9-7 **E Greatrex**
2 (3) **FLAG OF NATIONS** W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-5 **L Edmunds**
3 (6) 4-235 **PEROLA** 91 R Hughes 3-9-5 **F Marsh**
4 (1) 5 **PERSIAN GATE** 15 A Watson 3-9-5 **R Ryan**
5 (5) -0533 **GEEMANN** 14 J Tickle 3-9-3 **Taylor Fisher**
6 (4) 525 **KODICALL** 19 J S Moore 3-9-3 **W Cox**

13-8 Perola, 5-2 Kodicall, 5-1 Geemann, 8-1 Persian Gate, 10-1 Lucky Radar, Flag Of Nations.

3.30 Handicap (Div I: £3,768: 7f) (11)

1 (7) 6005D **MARGORIE** 41 (P) E J-Houghton 4-9-9 **C Hutchinson**
2 (6) 12554 **NAMMOS** 19 (BF,D) J & R Flint 6-9-8 **M Paetel (3)**
3 (2) 65354 **AJRAD** 13 (P,C,D) B Millman 8-9-6 **L Edmunds**
4 (8) 36120 **PRINCE ALI** 20 (P,C,D) T Faulkner 8-9-5 **Zoe Lewis (7)**
5 (10) 0-113 **ESCAPE MAGIC** 37 (BF,CD) Owen Burrows 3-9-4 **R Ryan**
6 (4) 35600 **FULLSTOP** 25 (H,T) G Harris 3-9-1 **Ashley Lewis (3)**
7 (3) 06303 **ASHFORD HILL** 20 (D) D F Davis 5-9-0 **Isobelle Chalmers (7)**
8 (5) 5-054 **BLUE POINT EXPRESS** 62 (P,CD) A Wintle 4-9-0 **F Marsh**
9 (11) 0060B **PACIFIC PRINCE** 83 J Bennett 5-9-0 **Laura Coughlan (3)**
10 (9) 0-040 **APLACEINTHESUN** 20 Ollie Sangster 3-8-11 **Libby Swallow (7)**
11 (1) -0066 **SNOW DAY** 24 A Carroll 3-8-9 **Myla Coppins (5)**

7-4 Escape Magic, 3-1 Ajrad, 13-2 Nammos, 7-1 Ashford Hill, 12-1 Margorie, Prince Ali, 16-1 Blue Point Express, 20-1 Fullstop.

4.00 Handicap (Div II: £3,768: 7f) (11)

1 (9) -0460 **VAPE** 13 (P,C) J & R Flint 9-9-9 **Amy Tucker (7)**
2 (3) 52221 **ROVINIA** 13 (D) R Teal 4-9-7 **O Lewis (5)**
3 (5) 00413 **ANGEL'S CALL** 19 (P,D) Mrs N Evans 5-9-5 **R Kavanagh (3)**
4 (1) 61524 **MARISITTA** 13 (P,C) J G O'Shea 6-9-4 **W Carson**
5 (10) 46363 **EYE OF THE WATER** 61 (P,D) R Harris 10-9-1 **C Hutchinson**
6 (4) 0-46 **IT'S A MUGS GAME** 19 J Tickle 3-9-1 **Taylor Fisher**
7 (8) -0060 **LADY MARGRET** 17 A Carroll 4-9-0 **Myla Coppins (5)**
8 (11) 53340 **A ROSE ADAAY** 10 (P) G Harris 4-9-0 **B Ffrench-Davis (5)**
9 (2) 6-06 **LADY V** 91 Charlie Pike 3-8-12 **R Ryan**
10 (6) 46-30 **BIG MOONRISE** 19 P Evans 3-8-9 **E Greatrex**
11 (7) 5060 **KAIKO** 10 A Wintle 3-8-9 **Laura Coughlan (3)**

Evens Rovinia, 4-1 Marisitta, 6-1 Angel's Call, 15-2 Eye Of The Water, 14-1 Lady V, 16-1 A Rose Adaay, 25-1 Vape, It's A Mugs Game.

4.35 Handicap (£20,616: 1m) (17)

1 (5) 0-061 **REVELANCE** 25 (CD) R Beckett 4-9-12 **R Ryan**
2 (16) 20665 **TALIS EVOLVERE** 12 (D) R Hannon 6-9-6 **A Voikhansky**
3 (2) 56102 **NAKAAHA** 25 (H,D) G Harris 4-9-5 **C Hutchinson**
4 (15) 04125 **KODI FIRE** 25 (P,T,CD) C Hills 4-9-2 **F Marsh**
5 (11) 15223 **EUTROPIA** 38 (BF,D) A Wintle 4-8-10 **E Greatrex**
6 (10) 40213 **SPIRIT OF THE BAY** 25 (P,CD) J & R Flint 8-8-9 **M Paetel (3)**
7 (9) -0015 **AUBURN AVENUE** 25 (P,C) J & R Flint 5-8-9 **W Carson**
8 (17) -2113 **THANOS** 60 (P,BF,CD) Harry Charlton 3-8-9 **L Edmunds**
9 (6) 55351 **RATING** 13 (P,CD) G Harris 5-8-7 **Ashley Lewis (3)**
10 (4) 50555 **LAW OF DESIGN** 13 (V,BF) I Williams 4-8-5 **W Cox**
11 (13) 03144 **MOONHALL LASS** 30 (P) J Tickle 4-8-2 **Molly Keegan-Price (7)**
12 (14) 41031 **TOO MUCH TREVOR** 13 (C) G Harris 5-8-2 **Laura Coughlan (3)**
13 (1) 03321 **REDHOT WHISPER** 22 (H,CD) A Wintle 5-8-2 **C Planas**
14 (12) -3413 **HOMELAND** 37 (P,BF) T Faulkner 4-8-2 **Zoe Lewis (7)**
15 (7) 60042 **THE BUREAU CLUB** 22 (H,T) Charlie Pike 3-8-2 **O Tubb (5)**
16 (3) 13000 **BOBBY DASSLER** 13 (T,CD) B J Murphy (Ire) 7-8-2 **Olivia Haines (7)**
17 (8) 32263 **SCARFO** 13 (CD) B J Llewellyn & R Williams 5-8-2 **Isobelle Chalmers (7)**

7-2 Revelance, 6-1 Eutropia, 8-1 Thanos, 10-1 Spirit Of The Bay, Rating, 12-1 Nakaaha, Too Much Trevor, Talis Evolvere, Auburn Avenue.

5.10 Handicap (£4,397: 5f) (7)

1 (5) 11304 **MAGNA** 35 (D) A Carroll 4-9-13 **R Ryan**
2 (4) -2324 **CONTROL ROOM** 25 (D) G Harris 3-9-12 **E Greatrex**
3 (1) 22160 **LEVEL UP** 3 (V,CD) P Evans 7-9-12 **P Dobbs**
4 (3) 31260 **SAVANNAH SMILES** 13 (P,CD) G Harris 6-9-9 **Ashley Lewis (3)**
5 (7) 44433 **CONNIE'S ROSE** 2 (P,T,CD) G Harris 7-9-8 **C Hutchinson**
6 (6) 16600 **DOUBLE NAUGHTY** 18 J Tickle 3-9-6 **Taylor Fisher**
7 (2) 33032 **SOME NIGHTMARE** 13 (P,CD) J G O'Shea 9-8-9 **W Carson**

11-4 Control Room, 3-1 Magna, 4-1 Some Nightmare, 5-1 Connie's Rose, 7-1 Level Up, 10-1 Double Naughty, 20-1 Savannah Smiles.

5.45 Handicap (£3,768: 1m 2f) (6)

1 (5) 55021 **LIBERATE** 7 (D) J & S Best 4-10-0(5ex) **Ashley Lewis (3)**
2 (3) -3343 **GHOST STORY** 21 (D) J Butler 5-9-9 **L Edmunds**
3 (4) 00325 **MEET ME IN MERAKI** 19 (CD) P Evans 5-9-5 **P Dobbs**
4 (1) 06062 **STIPULATION** 22 (P,D) M Loughnane 5-9-4 **C Hutchinson**
5 (2) -0565 **ZAMBEZI MAGIC** 39 (H,D) B J Llewellyn & R Williams 9-9-2 **W Cox**
6 (6) -6305 **STAYWITHERJOHNNY** J23 Ciaran Murphy (Ire) 4-8-12 **R Ryan**

2-1 Liberate, 11-4 Ghost Story, 7-2 Stipulation, 6-1 Meet Me In Meraki, 10-1 Staywitherjohnny, 12-1 Zambezi Magic.

Epsom
Rob Wright

1.50 Logi Bear **4.05** Double Red
2.25 Summer Triangle **4.40** Oj Lifestyle
3.00 Naval Light **5.15** Dapper Guest
3.35 Divine Knight (nb)

Going: good to soft
Draw: no advantage
Racing TV

1.50 Handicap
(£4,449: 6f) (7)

1 (5) 50051 **EM FOUR** 7 (CD) J Osborne 4-10-0(5ex) **S Osborne**
2 (4) 62021 **LOGI BEAR** 16 (P,D) J Butler 3-9-7 **D Probert**
3 (7) 20420 **TWIRLER** 8 (CD) M Attwater 5-9-5 **K Fox**
4 (3) 03500 **CAYMAN TAI** 16 R Hannon 4-9-5 **J Leavy**
5 (1) 10006 **PROOF** 69 (T) C Hills 3-9-5 **J Watson**
6 (2) 20015 **PERFECT LOCATION** 49 (P,D) T Ward 3-9-5 **P-L Jamin**
7 (6) 00-33 **HARRY'S HALO** 84 (T,D) K Frost 6-9-4 **S C Cronin (5)**

5-2 Em Four, 11-4 Logi Bear, 9-2 Harry's Halo, 5-1 Twirler, 10-1 Perfect Location, Proof, 14-1 Cayman Tai.

2.25 Maiden Stakes
(2-Y-O: £6,185: 7f) (8)

1 (2) 63 **L B DOUBLE U** 13 (P) T Dascombe 9-7 **P-L Jamin**
2 (4) 20 **RED TAIL** 16 R Hannon 9-7 **J Leavy**
3 (3) 53 **ARTEMIS STAR** 27 (H) W Muir & C Grassick 9-4 **R Havlin**
4 (8) 06 **LIGHTENINGS LEGACY** 20 (V) M Usher 9-4 **G Wood**
5 (6) **TARANIS** E J-Houghton 9-4 **C Bishop**
6 (7) 4 **ANGEL OF DESIRE** 17 A Perrett 9-2 **D Probert**
7 (5) 54 **GOLDEN CATURRA** 22 J Gallagher 8-13 **Kaiya Fraser**
8 (1) 022 **SUMMER TRIANGLE** 37 G & J Moore 8-13 **R Clutterbuck**

9-4 Summer Triangle, 3-1 Red Tail, 5-1 Artemis Star, 6-1 Taranis, 7-1 L B Double U, 10-1 Angel Of Desire, 12-1 Golden Caturra, 66-1 Lightenings Legacy.

3.00 Handicap
(£10,308: 7f) (8)

1 (3) 01600 **MORTE POINT** 23 (B,D) W Muir & C Grassick 4-10-0 **R Havlin**
2 (2) 0-003 **AURORA MAJESTY** 15 (CD) A Watson 4-9-12 **P-L Jamin**
3 (5) -3510 **KISSKODI** 15 (CD) Harry Eustace 4-9-10 **G Wood**
4 (6) 214-5 **NEW VEGA** 44 (D) S & E Crisford 3-9-9 **D Probert**
5 (1) 05000 **RHOSCOLYN** 2 (T,CD) D O'Meara 8-9-8 **J Watson**
6 (4) 30110 **NAVAL LIGHT** 30 (D) K R Burke 3-9-7 **S James**
7 (7) 02502 **DO BRONXS** 20 D Loughnane 3-9-5 **H Crouch**
8 (8) 11303 **VELVET RHYTHM** 7 (D) C Johnston 3-8-10 **S Osborne**

3-1 Velvet Rhythm, 7-2 Do Bronxs, 5-1 Aurora Majesty, 6-1 Naval Light, 7-1 Kisskodi, 8-1 New Vega, 12-1 Rhoscolyn, Morte Point.

3.35 Handicap
(£9,778: 1m 4f) (14)

1 (14) 21100 **SWEET REWARD** 30 (C) J Portman 9-11-11 **J Hills (4)**
2 (7) -0300 **GORDON GREY** 86 (P,T,CD) G Baker 6-11-9 **P W Mullins**
3 (10) 02033 **GREAT BEDWYN** 16 (D) R Hannon 6-11-7 **L Murphy (4)**
4 (11) 12300 **SON OF MAN** 19 (D) J Boyle 5-11-6 **R Birkett**
5 (4) 52316 **EPICTETUS** 9 (T,C) J Osborne 6-11-6 **J Loughnane (6)**
6 (9) -6335 **DIVINE KNIGHT** 30 (BF) W Haggas 5-11-5 **H Callan**
7 (13) 3-444 **DEVIL IN THE SKY** 48 (T,D) G & J Moore 6-11-3 **G A (4)**
8 (1) 16334 **YAA MIN** 15 (D) Hayley Burton 4-11-3 **C Murphy (4)**
9 (12) 56110 **DAMASCUS STEEL** 37 (P,CD) Gihan Arnolda 6-11-3 **F Yarham**
10 (3) 16224 **DANCING TIGER** 39 (P) R Teal 4-10-13 **F Tett**
11 (5) 16512 **CURRAN** 25 B Millman 5-10-11 **P Millman**
12 (8) 000-1 **CROOKED PATH** 19 (D) James Owen 4-10-10 **S Walker**
13 (2) 0-061 **EDWARD SEXTON** 24 G & J Moore 6-10-8 **D Dunsdon**
14 (6) 30-32 **SEEKING CHARLES** 25 M Usher 5-10-5 **H Main (2)**

4-1 Edward Sexton, 13-2 Crooked Path, 7-1 Divine Knight, 8-1 Seeking Charles, Gordon Grey, Curran, 10-1 Epictetus, 12-1 Yaa Min, Great Bedwyn.

4.05 Handicap
(£6,281: 1m 2f) (10)

1 (9) 11000 **HENGEST** 37 (D) D Cunha 4-10-2 **J Watson**
2 (4) 4-102 **ALMEKAREM** 19 (D) Sir M Prescott 4-10-2 **D E Hogan**
3 (8) 06321 **PERFECT SCOUNDREL** 46 (CD) A Perrett 4-9-13 **R Havlin**
4 (2) 000-5 **ARTHUR'S REALM** 87 (P,D) Gihan Arnolda 8-9-12 **D Keenan**
5 (7) 10205 **MAO SHANG WONG** 28 (D) D O'Meara 4-9-10 **S Osborne**
6 (3) 04425 **DOUBLE RED** 25 (P,BF,CD) H Candy 5-9-10 **D Probert**
7 (10) 50114 **TRIO** 17 (C) E J-Houghton 3-9-8 **C Bishop**
8 (5) -1250 **CRYSTAL PIER** 42 (T) R Beckett 3-9-6 **H Crouch**
9 (6) 61344 **HELLO COTAI** 21 (C,D) J Boyle 5-9-1 **P Cosgrave**
10 (1) 31115 **SAIL ON SAILOR** 39 (BF,CD) S Dow 3-8-9 **J Leavy**

3-1 Almekarem, 7-2 Perfect Scoundrel, 13-2 Trio, 7-1 Sail On Sailor, 8-1 Double Red, 12-1 Hengest, Arthur's Realm, Crystal Pier, Mao Shang Wong, 14-1 Hello Cotai.

4.40 Handicap
(£4,449: 1m 113yd) (8)

1 (8) 31004 **H KEY LAILS** 25 (P,D) M Attwater 6-10-0 **S C Cronin (5)**
2 (5) 06103 **OJ LIFESTYLE** 32 (B,T) G & J Moore 6-9-13 **T P Queally**
3 (6) 00220 **AMUSED** 6 (BF) J Boyle 4-9-11 **L Catton (3)**
4 (2) -0005 **HERE I BOW** 11 Oli Rix 3-9-9 **J Peate**
5 (1) 13130 **SUPER HIT** 14 (H,T,C) James Owen 5-9-8 **J Watson**
6 (7) 14005 **TRONIDO** 14 (H,CD) S Dow 5-9-6 **T Heard**
7 (4) -2443 **EDUARDO CALDERON** 12 Harry Eustace 3-9-1 **Kaiya Fraser**
8 (3) 60P05 **UNITER** 12 D Coakley 3-8-6 **S Osborne**

5-2 Oj Lifestyle, 3-1 Eduardo Calderon, 6-1 Amused, 7-1 Super Hit, 8-1 Tronido, Here I Bow, 12-1 H Key Lails, 14-1 Uniter.

5.15 Handicap (£6,281: 7f) (6)

1 (3) 24611 **FRENCH AFFAIR** 23 J Candlish 3-9-12 **S D Bowen**
2 (4) 40003 **DAPPER GUEST** 8 (P,D) G Margarson 4-9-11 **S Osborne**
3 (6) 30615 **SILVER TRUMPET** 25 (P,CD) E J-Houghton 5-9-10 **C Bishop**
4 (2) 1-30 **MILLION GOLD** 65 M Appleby 3-9-5 **R Havlin**
5 (5) -6060 **FRESH FADE** 33 M Attwater 3-9-2 **K Fox**
6 (1) 41501 **PLAY ME** 17 (CD) J Boyle 4-9-1 **D J Murphy (7)**

13-8 French Affair, 5-2 Play Me, 4-1 Dapper Guest, 9-2 Silver Trumpet, 25-1 Million Gold, Fresh Fade.

Cartmel
Rob Wright

2.35 Wicksey **4.19** Breizh River
3.10 Handmedownastar **4.55** Passengerontheship
3.45 Shallow River **5.30** Cuzco Du Mathan

Going: good to soft **Racing TV**

2.35 Juvenile Hurdle
(3-Y-O: £5,446: 2m 1f) (7)

1 12 **VIETNORM** 36 (BF,D) A Keatley 11-5 **O Brown (5)**
2 1 **WICKSEY** 63 B Haslam 11-5 **R McLernon**
3 5 **JAMBEAREE** 86 (P) B Ellison 10-12 **P W Wadge**
4 **LYNXMAN** F130 M Sowersby 10-12 **C Maggs (3)**
5 **TIME TWISTER** F23 M & D Easterby 10-12 **J Hamilton**
6 **WATCHA SNOOP** F30 (T) A Nicol 10-12 **R Mania**
7 **ROYAL BARONESS** F87 R M Smith 10-5 **Doubtful**

11-10 Vietnorm, 11-8 Wicksey, 8-1 Watcha Snoop, 20-1 Time Twister, 25-1 Jambearee, Lynxman.

3.10 Handicap Hurdle (£4,251: 2m 6f) (13)

1 132-1 **HANDMEDOWNASTAR** 99 Nick Scholfield 6-12-0 **S Bowen**
2 4-001 **FAIRLAWN SKIPPER** 42 (CD) M Bowen 6-11-7 **S Fenelon (5)**
3 3U-30 **DINONS** 44 (P,D) B Ellison 13-11-6 **N Moscrop**
4 -3305 **BELVEDERE BLAST** 16 (T,V) A Keatley 8-11-6 **O Brown (5)**
5 60-P0 **BALLYEARL** 41 (H) L Morgan 5-11-4 **D McMenamin**
6 3-112 **NOTTODAYBOBO** 44 (T) M Hammond 8-11-4 **J Thompson (5)**
7 0-600 **RAUZAN** 44 (T,V,D) Lizzie Quinlan 6-10-13 **S Quinlan**
8 54535 **SECRET SECRET** 2 (T,CD) J Moffatt 10-10-10 **B Hughes**
9 22240 **WELL EDUCATED** 44 G Bewley 10-10-8 **Doubtful**
10 344-2 **ENYA** 113 (T,BF) J Moffatt 4-10-6 **L Norcei (7)**
11 4-410 **BIG GYPSY KING** 42 (C) J Moffatt 4-10-6 **R Mania**
12 60060 **DUSKY DAYS** 2 (V,C) J Moffatt 9-10-5 **Doubtful**
13 -2324 **MASTERMINDING** 2 J Moffatt 7-10-2 **Doubtful**

9-4 Fairlawn Skipper, 5-2 Handmedownastar, 6-1 Secret Secret, Nottodaybobo, 10-1 Belvedere Blast, Enya, 20-1 Dinons, 25-1 Rauzan, Ballyearl.

3.45 Handicap Hurdle (£12,903: 3m 1f) (7)

1 41-34 **AL SAYAH** F45 (V) N Mulholland 6-12-0 **J Tudor**
2 1/635 **SHALLOW RIVER** 36 (P,D) O Murphy 10-12-0 **S Bowen**
3 61112 **DIVILABOTHER** 36 (T,BF,C) T Davidson 8-11-13 **H Reed**
4 45P1- **IMPERIAL MERLIN** 167 (P) J & S Quinn 9-11-12 **S Quinlan**
5 001-6 **KAYF DANCER** 107 (W) M Bowen 8-11-10 **J Bowen**
6 4-P0F **IMPERIAL DATA** 79 (P,T,CD) R Menzies 9-11-7 **R McLernon**
7 60-13 **BELLES BENEFIT** 44 (B,C,D) B Case 10-10-9 **H Bannister**

2-1 Divilabother, 4-1 Al Sayah, Imperial Merlin, 5-1 Belles Benefit, 8-1 Shallow River, 12-1 Kayf Dancer, 14-1 Imperial Data.

4.19 Handicap Chase
(£13,018: 3m 1f 107yd) (7)

1 12412 **GRAND CLERMONT** 36 (T) D Pipe 10-12-0 **Rian Corcoran (5)**
2 -3213 **BREIZH RIVER** 44 (T,V,C) T Davidson 8-11-13 **H Reed**
3 3-11U **TAMARIND BAY** 16 (BF) M Bowen 6-11-10 **J Bowen**
4 6-124 **TOMMIE BEAU** 44 (P,CD) Seamus Mullins 11-11-9 **B Macey (5)**
5 -2211 **CAUGHTINYOURTRANCE** 44 (P,T,CD) J Moffatt 7-11-7 **B Hughes**
6 -3131 **STRATAGEM** 42 (P,T,CD) M Bowen 10-11-6 **J Murray (7)**
7 -4343 **FAIRLAWN FLYER** 55 (W,P,CD) M Bowen 10-10-8 **S Bowen**

3-1 Stratagem, 7-2 Caughtinyourtrance, 9-2 Breizh River, 5-1 Grand Clermont, 13-2 Tamarind Bay, 8-1 Fairlawn Flyer, 10-1 Tommie Beau.

4.55 Handicap Chase (£9,057: 2m 5f) (8)

1 0-33P **POUR LES FILLES** 44 (P,T) M Bowen 8-12-2 **S Bowen**
2 -1316 **KARNAVAL POINT** 36 (B) D Pipe 6-12-0 **Rian Corcoran (5)**
3 -P201 **KING ROLY** 12 (B,T) M Bowen 7-11-13 **J Bowen**
4 20-24 **BLEU D'ENFER** 50 (P,T) D McCain 8-11-13 **T Gillard**
5 1/P-3 **COSSACK CHACH** 71 (P,T) L Russell & M Scudamore 6-11-10 **D R Fox**
6 4-141 **SEAN OG** 44 (CD) D Sayer 8-11-0 **S Quinlan**
7 11115 **PASSENGERONTHESHIP** 44 (T,BF,CD) S England 7-10-13 **J England**
8 4-023 **JACK SPRAT** 42 (P) J Moffatt 8-10-2 **B Hughes**

5-2 King Roly, 3-1 Sean Og, 11-2 Karnaval Point, 8-1 Passengerontheship, Pour Les Filles, Jack Sprat, 12-1 Cossack Chach, Bleu D'enfer.

5.30 Handicap Chase (£4,357: 2m 1f) (8)

1 22133 **GHASHAM** 16 (T,BF) S England 7-12-0 **J England**
2 /P-PP **ACHILLE DES ROCS** 40 (V) L Morgan 7-11-10 **D McMenamin**
3 3214- **FORCETORECKONWITH** 130 (T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 7-11-6 **J Tudor**
4 44-00 **CUZCO DU MATHAN** 44 (V,CD) J Moffatt 8-11-4 **L Norcei (7)**
5 35-P0 **WEARELONGTERM** 42 (P) D Sayer 9-10-9 **P J Kavanagh**
6 23221 **GETAWAY JEWEL** 12 (D) M Hammond 12-10-8 **B Hughes**
7 0P250 **JUDICIAL REVIEW** 2 (C) J Moffatt 8-10-7 **C Bewley**
8 UP020 **BLAZING COURT** 2 (P) J E Dixon 8-10-7 **J Dixon (7)**

7-4 Getaway Jewel, 4-1 Blazing Court, 5-1 Ghasham, 13-2 Judicial Review, 8-1 Forcetoreckonwith, 12-1 Cuzco Du Mathan, 14-1 others.

Yesterday's racing results

Beverley

Going: Heavy

1.40 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, **Galyx** (George Bass, 5-2); 2, Impartiality (11-4); 3, Per Contra (17-2). 10 ran. 3l, 1¼l. J Channon.

2.15 (5f) 1, **Jm Jungle** (Jason Hart, 7-4); 2, Argentine Tango (11-2); 3, Badri (16-1). 8 ran. ½l, nk. J & S Quinn.

2.50 (5f) 1, **Pivotal Voyage** (T Eaves, 4-1); 2, Floral Maid (25-1); 3, Cheeky Chesca (8-1). 13 ran. nk, 3½l. K A Ryan.

3.20 (1m 100yd) 1, **Financer** (D Allan, 4-1); 2, On The River (11-4); 3, Highland Olly (16-1). 11 ran. 1¼l, ns. T D Easterby.

3.55 (5f) 1, **Harb** (Jason Hart, 100-30); 2, Empress Olivia (11-1); 3, Miss Brazen (12-1). 12 ran. 27½l, 1l. T Davidson.

4.30 (7f 75yd) 1, **Court Legend** (Joanna Mason, 6-1); 2, Bella Lucia (100-30); 3, Inns And Out (7-2). 9 ran. ½l, nk. M & D Easterby.

5.05 (2m 32yd) 1, **Marbuzet** (Jake Dickson, 15-2); 2, Time Turner (4-1); 3, Punxsutawney Phil (12-1). 7 ran. sh, 19l. T D Easterby.

Placepot: £58.10Quadpot: £27.00

Goodwood

Going: Soft

1.25 (1m) 1, **George Cross** (Callum Rodriguez, 6-4); 2, Flight Tracker (7-2); 3, Somerton (6-1). 8 ran. ¾l, ½l. Owen Burrows.

2.00 (1m) 1, **Inspired** (C Lee, 4-1); 2, Oliver Show (7-2); 3, Rainbow Nebula (10-1). 7 ran. 1l, ¾l. K R Burke.

2.35 (6f) 1, **Flash Harry** (Rossa Ryan, 15-8); 2, Ardisia (11-2); 3, Lakers (7-1). 10 ran. 1l, ½l. C G Cox.

3.10 (7f) 1, **Light Of Dawn** (James Doyle, 4-1); 2, Eabha (18-1); 3, Coaxed (8-1). 8 ran. 1¼l, ½l. K R Burke.

3.45 (1m 3f 44yd) 1, **Itica** (Oisin Murphy, 22-1); 2, Gloryous (7-4); 3, Dunkeld Dreamer (7-4). 6 ran. 1¼l, ½l. A M Balding.

4.20 (2m) 1, **Maxident** (D Egan, 7-4); 2, Moon Over Miami (4-1); 3, Personal Best (9-2). 9 ran. 27½l, 1¼l. K P De Foy.

4.55 (1m 1f 197yd) 1, **A Major Payne** (Oisin Murphy, 9-2); 2, Si Grass (14-1); 3, Obito (4-1). 10 ran. ¾l, sh. M L W Bell.

Placepot: £28.80Quadpot: £13.60
Jackpot: £9,899.10

Yarmouth

Going: Good to Soft

2.20 (7f 3yd) 1, **Capitano Josepi** (J Mitchell, 11-2); 2, Extragalactic (7-2); 3, Rocsane (11-10). 10 ran. hd, 1½l. K Frost.

2.55 (5f 42yd) 1, **Kinswoman** (Harry Davies, 4-9); 2, Elara May (7-1); 3, Fantasy Master (13-2). 4 ran. ½l, 2¼l. W J Haggas.

3.25 (1m 2f 23yd) 1, **Something Splendid** (Marco Ghiani, 9-4); 2, Patrol (9-2); 3, Arundel (10-1). 8 ran. hd, 17½l. P W Chapple-Hyam.

4.00 (6f 3yd) 1, **Court Drive** (J Mitchell, 5-2); 2, Methgal (5-2); 3, Insuspense (11-2). 9 ran. ½l, 1¼l. Miss Gay Kelleway.

4.35 (7f 3yd) 1, **Pickering Castle** (Joey Haynes, 12-1); 2, Campani (9-4); 3, Captive Beauty (17-2). 11 ran. ¾l, 1¼l. D M Simcock.

5.10 (1m 3yd) 1, **Ecclefechan** (Christian Howarth, 9-4); 2, Piazza (100-30); 3, Symphony Of Joy (4-1). 5 ran. 2½l, 3¼l. J Ryan.

Placepot: £9.60
Quadpot: £4.60

Exhausted, naive, crushed — now Itauma must learn lessons of loss

Rick Broadbent

If you want to know where it all went wrong for Moses Itauma then you could do worse than listen to virtually the only person who thought he would lose on Saturday. Filip Hrgovic's post-fight assessment was much like his performance — honest, tough and hard to knock down.

"He's definitely an amazing talent and I believe he'll be world champion for sure," he said barely an hour after stopping the previously unbeaten Itauma, 21, in the ninth round and winning the vacant IBF heavyweight title. That ended Itauma's hopes of becoming the second-youngest heavyweight champion after Mike Tyson and instead made Hrgovic Croatia's first heavyweight king.

His advice? "Not to give up. Not [to] lose his confidence. To get a few easy fights, easy wins, to build again — and to learn from those mistakes."

Although Itauma landed more often and with more telling blows — 163 punches to Hrgovic's 90 — and won every round until the ninth, there were obvious mistakes.

"You can't box like an amateur," Hrgovic added. "It's a 12-round fight, man. You need to pace yourself. It's a marathon not a sprint. He's a kid. He could box for the last few rounds, use his legs, he was winning all the rounds, but he went toe-to-toe with me in round nine. It was a stupid move from him and it's inexperience."

Interestingly, Hrgovic, 34, said the most impressive thing about Itauma had not been the much-vaunted power that had brought him so many quick stoppages, albeit against less durable fighters. Itauma did force Hrgovic to touch the canvas with a glove, forcing a standing eight count, but he said: "I wasn't hurt. I just didn't see the punches coming.

"He's fast, but I didn't feel his power. I've never been in a ring with someone like him, but he was throwing too much. I knew I needed to endure and stay there and he's going to get tired — and I'll get him later on."

Hrgovic deserves immense credit for having the bravery and the chin to withstand torrents of sharp, accurate punches, but it had been a variation on something as old as Muhammad Ali's 'rope-a-dope' as Itauma grew physically weaker with each failed knockout blow, and mentally frustrated by his opponent's remarkable will.

Only the fifth, when the pace of an enthralling contest briefly dropped, was in any way debatable. So why not coast to the finish line, as even Hrgovic had suggested was the winning way. One problem was that Itauma may not have got there.

Before the fight, he had said: "I don't know if I've done a 12-round spar." Pressed on whether it would be good psychologically to know he could do 12, he said: "Absolutely not. There's no need to be in the ring longer than you need to be. Whether I knock Filip Hrgovic out in the first or the last, I'm still going to get paid the same."

That remark is not going to bolster the reputation of trainer Ben Davison and no doubt some will press Itauma to at least find a new conditioning coach if and when he comes back.

That was one of a couple of statements that looked desperately naive after the event. Another concerned the ability to take a punch. In a head-to-head interview with Hrgovic, he had questioned the Croat's reputation for having a good chin. "That's not something you should be praised for."

"Without a chin you can't be great," the Croatian replied.

"If you don't get hit."

"Oh, you'll get hit at some point."

In the ring on Saturday night, that was in the forefront of Hrgovic's mind. "Let me ask my young friend something — is [having a] chin important?"

It was a valid point, but the pivotal factor for Itauma was the empty tank that left him out on his feet and surviving on heart and the ropes. There is much to think about. He had the weapons on Saturday, even if it was to secure a points win rather than a knockout, but the strategy seemed non-existent. The best news came early yesterday with Frank Warren confirming that Itauma, who had left the ring on a stretcher, was out of hospital and home with his family.

Later Itauma posted a short video message. "We attempted greatness and just fell short to the more experienced man. Although I never reached my desired outcome, I believe I gained experience that I'll take into my future fights. Short of my goals. God bless, take care and I will be back." He also thanks his fans, admitted they had made it more "electrifying" than he expected and graciously congratulated Hrgovic.

When the dust settles and disappointment eases, the first question will be how much Itauma wants to do this again. It is hard to think he will not have the required desire, given the talent and clear deficiency in conditioning that undermined this tilt, but he is a singular boxing personality.

In the build-up he had been candid in discussing the things he did not want that would be coming if he were to win — the fame, the recognition and the pitfalls that snared Tyson. When he comes back he will have to be ready to go the distance, but will benefit from having shed his mask of invincibility.

He had never been past the sixth round as a pro and had only done 31 rounds in all. In his previous ten fights he had only seen a third round once. Much of this bout was fought in unknown territory and it showed. He exhausted himself, with nobody willing or able to get him to adopt a more mature gameplan.

Warren said that when Itauma was hit, he lost composure, stopped jabbing and spent the fight looking for the killer blow. Certainly, he did not land a jab in the third when well on top, but he was already blowing hard, as noticed by Itauma's corner. The way he kept going answered any questions about heart, but he could have done with using his head too.

But Hrgovic deserves this moment. When he lost to Daniel Dubois in 2024, stopped because of cuts, he was at his lowest point and thought of quitting.

"My whole country was laughing at me at that time," said the 2016 Olympic bronze medallist. "I looked like shit. I was ill before the fight. I was cut in the first round. My daughter had been born and I wanted one more try to make her proud. I couldn't see her having a loser father."

This was a worthy catharsis and he is worth a defence in Croatia.

Meanwhile, Dubois's WBO title rematch with Fabio Wardley has been confirmed for October 17 at London's O2 Arena.

PETER CZIBORRA/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS

Itauma takes heavy punishment as Hrgovic exposes his poor gameplan and, inset, the Briton is carried out on a stretcher

Ex-delivery driver Dean takes the scenic route to first title

Golf

Rick Broadbent

Joe Dean has been through much in his unheralded career. From a job as a supermarket delivery driver to hypnosis to cure separation anxiety stemming from the death of a childhood pet, sometimes he has wondered whether it is all worth it. He got his answer — and $595,000 (about £439,000) — with a remarkable comeback to win the British Masters at the Belfry.

He was seven shots adrift entering the final round on the Brabazon course, but won by three shots after having to wait 90 minutes for others to finish.

His bogey-free 63, including nine birdies, made for a gripping finale as the week's weather interruptions meant players went out in the same groups for two days. When he set the clubhouse target of 14 under par, his closest challenger, Marco Penge, was only two shots back and on the 12th hole. His challenge finally unravelled on the 17th, and Dean and his wife-cum-caddie, Emily, could celebrate the biggest win of his career. Dean was on the EuroPro Tour as recently as 2022, and even when he made it through qualifying school, he was forced to delay his start on the DP World Tour due to a lack of money. He has long trodden a different path than most pros and took a lockdown job with Morrisons supermarket — and liked it so much that he kept it for four years.

Dean was seven shots back when he teed off for his final round

He looked to have no chance early yesterday morning as players returned to complete their third rounds due to the weather delays. He made two birdies in his last four holes but was still seven shots behind Daniel Hillier, the 54-hole leader, going into the final round. He then played the round of his life.

"I can't thank Emily enough for what she has to put up with me," he said. "It was bad enough off the course and the lows and stuff like that, but now on the course and off the course. I hope I made her proud. We're both a bit 'rabbit in the headlights' at the minute." Now 32, the world No 292, has struggled with travel due to self-diagnosed separation anxiety relating to the death of a pet while he was at an England training camp.

He looked comfortable yesterday, though. "Today has made up for a lot of bad days and a lot of stress," he said. The win also means he rises to 12th in the Race to Dubai. "That should be enough to seal my card for next year," he said.

Brit qualifier Samuel seals shock victory

Tom Kershaw

Tennis Correspondent, New York

T Samuel (GB)	6	6	6
T Machac (Cze)	2	3	2

Toby Samuel led the cohort of young Britons taking inspiration from Arthur Fery's Wimbledon heroics as the 23-year-old defeated Tomas Machac to advance to the second round of the US Open — but it was a more bruising afternoon for the older generation as Cameron Norrie succumbed to his third consecutive first-round exit at a grand slam this season.

Samuel's rise has mirrored Fery's in many ways, having honed his talents in the US college system before his progress was stalled by bone bruising in his right arm — the same injury that has afflicted Jack Draper over the past year. The problem was so severe that Samuel was ranked No 1,871 at the start of 2025, and he was on the brink of quitting the sport before a superb winning streak on the unglamorous Futures circuit towards the end of last year sparked what a staggeringly sharp rise.

Samuel's 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 win over Machac was not only the first grand-slam win of his career, having come through qualifying here in New York and at the French Open, but will also cement his place in the top 100 for the first time. Just as impressive was the manner in which Samuel dispatched Machac in only 1hr 30min. Admittedly, the 25-year-old Czech is a mercurial talent and his performance — particularly his laboured movement — were not at the flattering end of that spectrum on this blustery occasion. But Machac has still been ranked as high as No 20 and beaten both Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz, so all credit to Samuel, who at 6ft 3in has a potent first serve that clocked 135mph on the speed gun and surrendered only two points in the first two sets. He also extended rallies adeptly as Machac hit the ball with abandon, making 25 unforced errors to Samuel's 13.

Samuel, who steeled his nerves well after falling down a break early in the third set, will face another Czech player in the second round in Jiri Lehecka, although that is likely to be a more testing encounter against the big-serving 18th seed, who reached the US Open quarter-finals last year. "It's crazy what [Fery] did at Wimbledon, making the semi-finals and now he's established himself as one of the top players in the game," Samuel said. "That one result gave him so much confidence and it shows you can do it and one week can change your career.

"I think British tennis is on the up. The depth is getting more and more, and we're all pushing each other on."

For Norrie, though, a 6-7 (6-8), 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 defeat against France's Luca Van Assche was a bitter pill to swallow. The 31-year-old has been British tennis's Mr Reliable for several years, and so often the last man standing at the grand slams. But his form has dipped sharply during the clay-court swing and he was forced to retire during his first-round match at the French Open before suffering back-to-back defeats on grass at Queen's and Wimbledon.

Norrie cleansed the soul on his stag do in Ibiza and had more spring in his step in recent weeks, but this was disappointing against Van Assche, the world No 40, who had an outstanding junior career, including winning the French Open boys' title in 2021.

Norrie surrendered an immediate break in the opening set with three unforced errors a sign of things to come — he made 49 in total to Van Assche's 21. Norrie struck back immediately, notably switching into his opponent's native tongue and shouting "Allez!", and he edged the tie-break in a tight first set. But Van Assche, who had lost to Norrie in all three of their previous meetings, refused to let the momentum slip away. It was a contest defined by long attritional baseline rallies, but Van Assche served well and started to take more risks on his forehand as Norrie broke down with uncharacteristic frequency.

"It was really tough," Norrie said. "I was pretty nervous for the match. It showed in the beginning of the first set. I did well to steal it but I could never really maintain a good level of energy."

ELLA LING/SHUTTERSTOCK

Samuel defeated the Czech Machac in straight sets in the US Open first round but there was frustration for Norrie, inset, who lost to Van Assche in four sets

Federer's Hall of Fame tears

Roger Federer was brought to tears several times during an emotional speech as he was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame over the weekend in Rhode Island.

The 45-year-old was introduced by his wife, Mirka, who entertainingly recounted the origin of their relationship and how she used to warm Federer up for his early matches on tour.

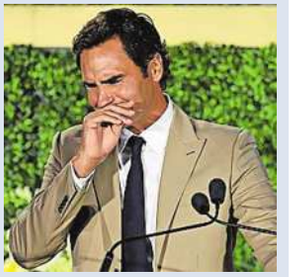
Andy Roddick, who was watching from the front row, was the recipient of one playful jibe.

"I still remember Andy Roddick joking after the Cincinnati final, 'I can't believe I lost to a guy whose girlfriend warmed him up,'" she said, to the crowd's amusement, before reminding Federer that he had won "exactly zero ATP titles" at that point.

"He was 18. I was 21. Yes, I was the older woman. Apparently, Roger decided right away that age was just a number. He pursued me anyway, and thankfully he was persistent," she said.

Federer, whose induction followed that of the broadcaster Mary Carillo, thanked his childhood hero, Stefan Edberg, and his coach, Severin Luthi, among others, before paying tribute to his wife.

"Now the Mirka part," he said, pausing before he broke down in tears, below. "Oh gosh, this is such a mess. I need tissues and sunglasses, everything to protect me right now."



Sport Rugby union

Clear identity of Erasmus's side is lesson for England

ESA ALEXANDER/REUTERS

Erasmus's antics continue to draw criticism after last week's selection shenanigans but he remains a trailblazing coach

Alex Lowe

Rugby Correspondent

Back in his days working for Adidas, Bill Sweeney was out for dinner with a host of All Blacks players and coaches after they had visited the company headquarters in Nuremberg, Germany. England's 2003 World Cup win was still a recent and vivid memory. Steve Hansen, a New Zealand assistant coach at the time, stood up in the Japanese restaurant and gave a toast to Sweeney as the only Englishman in the room, offering congratulations on the World Cup win followed by a sobering reality check. "Fantastic. Well done. But you'll never win one again."

Hansen's point to Sweeney, now the RFU chief executive, was that English rugby, with its tense and often fractured relationship between club and country, was just not set up for sustained success. Over the past two decades, Hansen has been proved right. In 22 years England have spent only one week at world No 1. They have won four Six Nations titles since 2003 — but boast four losing records in the past six championships.

With decent preparation time England can build a World Cup strategy that takes them deep into a tournament and gives them a puncher's chance, particularly with the benign draws that keep falling their way. England have reached two finals and a semi-final in the five World Cups since 2003 but they neither entered those tournaments with a sustained record of success nor were they considered as the team to beat. The same will be the case in Australia next year. "That [lack of sustained success] is an indication of the quality of the high-performance system in place and the ability to really maximise and get the best out of all the assets you have," Sweeney said in March.

The reasons for that structural handbrake are for another column. But Hansen's toast to Sweeney all those years ago came to mind while watching South Africa defeat New Zealand in Cape Town on Saturday to draw level in an enthralling four-Test series.

The restoration of these long-form tours, with each edition taking place a year before the World Cup, will be of enormous benefit to the All Blacks and Springboks, providing a level of sustained competition not available to any other Test team in the game.

The All Blacks and Springboks are ranked No 1 and No 2 in the world. Winning this four-Test series is harder than winning a World Cup. The rugby so far has been a mix of thunder and lightning, with contrasting styles carrying the All Blacks to victory at Ellis Park before the Springboks fired back in Cape Town.

The Tests are being played under a knockout-style pressure and intensity, greater than anything we saw in the Nations Championship in July or will see in November. The Six Nations is a wonderful championship, and the grand slam is a rare feat, but the championship does not carry the same sustained sense of jeopardy that the Springboks and the All Blacks are having to navigate. There are rarely three elite-level teams. The title can be won by losing to your nearest rivals but hammering Wales or Italy or England.

Dave Rennie, the All Blacks head coach, referenced the World Cup in the build-up to the first Test. There was no downplaying the significance of this series. He described the coaching challenge as "the ultimate". But, new into the job, he also acknowledged that forging his team's fresh identity in the fires of this Test series against the double world champions would be invaluable. This eight-game tour also gives the All Blacks exposure to South African teams, which they have missed since the changes to Super Rugby.

"We are well aware of how tough a tour this is. To get 44 players here [plus injury replacements] to really immerse them in the culture that we are trying to develop and the game model, we are confident we will leave here in a much stronger place 12 months out from the World Cup," Rennie said.

The flip side is that this series gives European teams a chance to analyse how these two nations may be evolving their tactics. The most basic lesson from the first two Tests is that clarity and commitment to identity is critical. It has led to a fascinating clash of styles.

England's identity has flip-flopped in recent years, leading to Rassie Erasmus describing Steve Borthwick as a coach who is very good at following trends rather than being ahead of the curve.

Erasmus's conduct has not always been edifying but his innovations have changed how people think about the game, from the development of hybrid players and the use of the bench, to finding loopholes in the regulations. Let's hope his team-naming shenanigans are not the latest idea that catches on.

South Africa have reverted relying on their traditional strengths of set-piece dominance, direct carrying and fast line-speed in defence to build pressure. They lost the first Test because they could not convert that superiority into points. In Cape Town they were ruthless and, crucially, took their points when on offer, building scoreboard pressure on New Zealand. The Springboks kicked twice as much in open play but scored three tries and four penalties from eight possessions in New Zealand's half. Eben Etzebeth was commanding in the lineout and New Zealand struggled to contain the Springbok maul. The Springboks reinforced the importance of discipline, conceding only one penalty in the first hour which denied New Zealand easy entry into their 22.

The All Blacks are more than capable of striking from distance, with Rennie having changed the mindset of the players since the Scott Robertson days when they were an unhappy bunch, playing a territory and pressure game. They are lethal on the counterattack and in unstructured situations, but they also relish possession and want to move the ball in their own half in a bid to wear down defences. New Zealand's character in defence and clinical attack saw them to victory in the first Test, despite South Africa dominating territory and the scrum battle. They were slightly less accurate in Cape Town, although it came down to small moments. What if Jordie Barrett's charge-down had stayed in? What if Damian McKenzie had fed Cam Roigard on the inside?

New Zealand have issues in the scrum and lineout, but their ability to strike from first phase and unstructured situations keeps them in games. The Springboks can also play fluid attacking rugby behind those physical carriers. We saw it in the Nations Championship against England, Scotland and Wales. But this series is a level up. Losing 2-1 on home soil before heading to Baltimore would be unacceptable to Springboks fans who have become accustomed to success.

"I felt the pressure," Erasmus said on Saturday night. "Now Dave has his first loss as All Blacks coach. He will know what I felt last week." That is life at the top. Everyone else is playing catch-up, without the benefit of a series like this one to sharpen their tools.

Restarts may not be fashionable but they cost All Blacks the game

Stuart Barnes

Last week South Africa had a scrum that was too dominant for its own good. This week their lineout exposed New Zealand's "other" set piece. The destroyer-in-chief was Eben Etzebeth, who gets better with age.

Most teams abide by the coaching modes of the moment until these beliefs are exposed as being nothing but trends. Think back to England against France in the Six Nations. The final lineout with England needing a turnover to have a hope. What did Steve Borthwick's team do? Remain rooted to the ground because ... that's what lineouts do on opposing throws. It was as close to a rugby definition of insanity as I have seen.

Apparently, if the defending lineout competes in the air, the attacking side will exploit the lack of structure and drive them backwards. It has always seemed to me that the idea to put an aggressive pair of jumpers into the air — especially at the front where hookers can be distracted — is a smart way to compete. Take the attackers on before they set their drive. Steal the ball. Turn attacking structure into defensive chaos.

But in our sheepish hemisphere we follow the agreed mantras. In Cape Town, 11 minutes into the game, New Zealand had the advantage of a five-metre lineout. Did South Africa prepare for the All Black surge? Did they hell. Etzebeth rocketed off the ground to grab possession at source. Against a side with the attacking qualities of the Kiwis, burgled lineouts five metres out are valued at five to seven points.

One such steal would have been worthy of note, but on the hour mark the world's best second row hurtled up and in front of his opposing number, five metres out again, to pull the All Blacks' attacking platform from beneath their dancing feet.

Winning possession on your own throw is the bread and butter of a hooker and second row's game but South Africa's first try came from an Etzebeth catch and what proved to be an unstoppable sequence of collective and individual drives. This was the Springboks at their dynamic best.

Yet the All Blacks had it within them not to concede seven points so soon. The lineout may often be considered the "other" set piece but that is to forget about the kick-off and restarts, the unofficial third set piece.

Wind the game to its 68th minute. Jordie Barrett catches a Manie Libbok restart and belts the ball to about halfway. Now recall the start of the match as he received a kick in an almost identical position and hooked it a mere ten metres further from his tryline. South Africa were able to effect a driving maul which got to within ten metres of the line before Jesse Kriel crashed over.

The solid 68th-minute kick ended with a Barrett gesture suggesting his team needed to grab territory. Had his first touch of the game been less

Go on attack in this bowlers' summer

Steve James

Boy, has batting been tough this summer. In five Tests England's batsmen have scored just one century — Ben Duckett's 113 in the Trent Bridge Test against New Zealand when Ben Stokes and Bazball left the stage in the most remarkable and unruly of fashions — with pitches livelier than Molly Malones at 4am and wicketkeepers regularly up to the stumps as if eager to hear all the gossip.

So it was no surprise to hear Dan Lawrence saying before play that "No5 is the nicest place to bat". It has been no summer for the top order, with even the great Joe Root averaging less than 30.

Lawrence admitted that he has no chance of batting at five for England "with Brooky there at the moment" and indeed, of England's regulars, Harry Brook has the highest average at just a tick under 40. Lawrence averages just over 40 in his two Tests this year and his unbeaten half-century on Saturday from No6 in horrifically difficult conditions — cloud and floodlights added to the pitch's vagaries — was a perky plea for a long-term spot, even if it was a shame that he could only add four runs yesterday, but it was an innings that simply had to involve a good deal of calculated risk.

"I was very clear in how I was going to play and I obviously got off the mark with a massive 'whooshka' that went over the slips," he said of his sliced four off Mohammad Abbas. "I might have been caught slip there third ball and I would have looked really silly. But the bravery paid off."

Pakistan wicketkeeper Muhammad Rizwan was standing back for that ball, immediately coming up to the stumps thereafter, but Lawrence had certainly shown the way to deal with such devilish conditions.

It was a theme immediately taken up by Pakistan's No5, Saud Shakeel, on the final day, swishing wildly at fresh air to his second ball from Jofra Archer, but soon finding the cover boundary as the left-hander pounced on the merest hint of width in an innings of 97 that deserved the three more runs to register the first century of the series.

One cover drive for four off Archer, the full ball hit late with delightful timing from a bent back leg, was simply gorgeous, but even he had his moments of considerable alarm early on against the quite brilliant Ollie Robinson, with England reviewing one not-out leg-before that revealed the ball had pitched outside leg stump and Shakeel slicing one just wide of the slip cordon.

For the truth is that no batsman on either side has really provided a template for dealing with Robinson and Abbas (or New Zealand's Matt Henry earlier in the summer) with the wicketkeeper up and the ball nipping around from the now cliched wobble seam.

Some have tried to get outside off stump to take leg-befores out of the equation, while others, like Abdullah Shafique, have stayed more legside of the ball, only to expose their off stump as Shafique did when being bowled by a beauty that nipped away from Robinson here.

What to do then? It is fine for Lawrence to do what he did when his side have a big lead and the ball is older, but for the men up top, taking such risks can easily be seen as career suicide. Lawrence himself admitted in that interview before play that his efforts as an opener against Sri Lanka in 2024 had been too "desperate", reflecting how Bazball's message was being received at the time. I do think that, at the height of its success, the Bazball response would have been for batsmen to scoop and ramp incessantly with the wicketkeeper up. Nothing scares a stumper more than that sort of stroke when standing up to a seamer. It is a dangerous and uncomfortable job as it is — something Rizwan remarked upon to his counterpart Jamie Smith when he came out to bat yesterday afternoon — but that takes the peril to new levels.

But it also takes the batsman's level of risk to new heights, and it was something Brook attempted to Michael Neser in the second Test of last winter's Ashes to predictable opprobrium. It was interesting that Rizwan tried to sweep Robinson here, falling leg-before to his second attempt, but, again, you could understand the intention.

It is like facing a spinner on a sharply turning surface. You do not want to "die in the hole" as they say, with close catchers waiting around the bat, so you work on aggressive options to unsettle the bowlers — and fielders.

Surely it is no different against the likes of Robinson and Abbas. You cannot let them settle because their nip seems certain to trap you eventually.

But is Test cricket changing before our very eyes? Is it just that the pitches are doing too much? Will the batsmen fight back somehow? Nothing seems particularly clear at the moment, except that it has undoubtedly been a bowlers' summer.

Lawrence took plenty of risks, getting off the mark with a massive 'whooshka' that went over the slips

A challenging summer

Batsmen in England's top seven since May

	Innings	Runs	Average	100/50
DW Lawrence	3	122	40.66	0/2
HC Brook	9	357	39.66	0/4
JM Cox	5	191	38.2	0/2
BM Duckett	9	279	31	1/0
JE Root	9	265	29.44	0/2
JL Smith	7	194	27.71	0/2
EN Gay	9	211	23.44	0/2
JG Bethell	6	103	17.16	0/1
BA Stokes*	4	57	14.25	0/0

conservative, it is highly unlikely South Africa would have scored an immediate and confidence-creating try. They would probably have kicked their possession into the air.

Had Springboks hooker Deon Fourie thrown in from nearly 50 metres out, this could have been a different game. It was not an isolated failure, either. At 7-7 Tupou Vaa'i, normally such an adroit handler, got his signals crossed with his lifters and knocked the restart on. Free to play with an advantage, the hosts won a penalty when the action should have been around the halfway line. Instead, the Boks kicked a penalty to regain the lead at 10-7. The next time the visiting team touched the ball would be at another Ruben Love restart, this time with the scoreboard reading 17-7. Where the All Blacks were messy, the Springboks were masterful.

It will be a major surprise if the Springboks are anything but excellent in all three aspects of the game next week. New Zealand showed their scrum to be capable of surviving after the demolition job in Ellis Park. Now they could do with Vaa'i moving back to the blind side and competing with an extra jumper against Etzebeth and co at the lineout.

As for the restart and its component parts — the kicking, catching and running — Dave Rennie's side need to improve in all areas. Gift the Springboks territory and they will turn the mistakes into points with their hard-running pressure play. That is exactly what they did in Cape Town. South Africa must be favourites but I would not advise anyone against backing this intelligent, improving, but still error-prone All Blacks team.

13 nights
from
£4,999pp*
Curated cruise and F1 package

FLY-CRUISE AND SPORTS EVENT

European icons cruise with Monaco Grand Prix

May 26, 2027

Experience the ultimate blend of luxury and F1 with Imagine Cruising. Enjoy a breathtaking all-inclusive cruise with Azamara to highlights of the Mediterranean, including immersive overnights in port. Then the thrilling climax of your journey awaits at the legendary 2027 Monaco F1 Grand Prix with grandstand tickets and transfers included.

Upgrade to Grandstand T (covered) for enhanced views of the pit-lane and track from just £299pp, or upgrade to a two-day experience to include qualifying too from £399pp.

Itinerary:

Rome, Italy (overnight) – Portoferraio – Florence (overnight) – Porto Venere – Nice – Marseille – Barcelona – Palamós – Nice (overnight) – Monaco – Barcelona (overnight)

Price includes

- Return flights from London
- Overnight four-star pre-cruise stay in Rome
- 12 nights' all-inclusive cruise aboard Azamara Onward
- Onboard drinks, gratuities and overnights in port
- Onboard concierge services for personal guidance and reservations
- Grandstand Ticket to Race Day at the Monaco Grand Prix
- Transfers to and from the Monaco Circuit
- Times+ members save £100^. Get your unique code at thetimes.com/timesplus

Call 0808 239 8380 or visit thetimes.com/th-f1monaco

TIMES Holidays

Terms and conditions apply. *Price shown is per person, based on two adults sharing, correct as of August 3, 2026 and subject to change and availability. Price includes all non-optional taxes/fees/charges known at time of publication. ^£100 off Times+ offer applicable to each Times Holidays booking made by December 31, 2026 with a minimum spend of £2,000 when quoting your unique Times+ code. Visit thetimes.com/timesplus for full terms and conditions. Offers and bookings are subject to availability, see supplier website for full T&C's. This flight-inclusive holiday is sold and payments accepted by Times Holidays as an agent for Imagine Cruising, ATOL 11078 and financially protected by the ATOL scheme. An ATOL Certificate will be issued on payment. For full booking conditions, visit thetimes.com/holidays/terms-and-conditions. For more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to caa.co.uk.

Series win brings light to England's summer of strife

Mike Atherton

Chief Cricket Correspondent, Lord's

England v Pakistan

Lord's (fourth day of five): England beat Pakistan by 194 runs. England lead the three-Test series 2-0.

"Cut the head off the snake," was West Indies' plan in their days of fast bowling dominance — an attempt to undermine the confidence and standing of the opposition captain, who was often a batsman. At 12.30pm yesterday, 45 minutes before lunch, Babar Azam felt the full force of this line of psychological attack, when he was dismissed by a brute of a bouncer from Jofra Archer, as England swarmed all over Pakistan.

Babar is not only Pakistan's captain but their best batsman and the blow, therefore, of seeing him exposed to a nasty, fast bouncer must have been profound. The 91mph ball, delivered from the Pavilion End, nipped back dangerously towards his throat and was not dissimilar to that which floored Steve Smith in the 2019 Ashes, but Babar flapped at the ball instead and could only spoon it upwards towards the slip cordon.

Pakistan were doomed long before then — a first-innings deficit of 180 was too many on this tricky surface — but it was the moment when England's dominance and Pakistan's inadequacy was at its starkest. Babar was the third wicket to fall to a superb new-ball burst from Archer, all menace, and from Ollie Robinson, whose skill and accuracy was outstanding, and after that it was simply a matter of how long Pakistan could last and whether they could see out the day.

They didn't, despite 97 from Saud Shakeel, who, seventh man out, was caught on the boundary going for glory, and England wrapped up their first series win since late 2024 in New Zealand, extending their winning run at Lord's to five consecutive Tests, a record. This was a badly needed win after a summer of discontent, and a boost for Joe Root on his return to the captaincy. That Pakistan have been so poor is not their fault, though it has detracted from the spectacle.

How far that contributed to the below capacity crowd at Lord's must be a matter of speculation. The speed with which Test cricket moves these days must inhibit many from purchasing a fourth-day ticket in advance. Only the extreme weather on the third day contributed to this one lasting as long as it did, as well as accentuating the difficulties of the pitch, which played better under brighter skies on the fourth day.

This surface, in general, was undoubtedly a better one than in June, when the ground was hit with a demerit point — the grubber to Emilio Gay on the third morning was an anomaly — but it still acted like a plush, red carpet for Robinson, who glided down it willingly. If it was Archer who delivered the most stunning knockout blow, it was Robinson who opened the cuts with the accuracy of his jabbing, taking four more wickets to finish with eight in the match. His analysis across the game was remarkable: 27-11-35-8.

Time and again, in a seven-over spell with the new ball before lunch, and then in a seven-over spell in the afternoon, he challenged the stumps and the pads, snaking the ball this way and that off a nagging length, sometimes with the seam stood upright, sometimes wobbling on the way down, accompanied by some smart glovework from Jamie Smith, who is improving standing up to the stumps with every match. Robinson walked off with the man-of-the-match award again, his third from three Tests this summer.

Robinson was quickly into his work. Azan Awais, so determined and gutsy in the first innings when he was eighth man out, failed to make it through the new ball this time, pinned leg-before on the front foot. Awais survived a close run thing at the start of his first innings, when he survived an lbw call by getting outside the line of off stump.

This time, the ball struck him just in line and there was nothing to save him, given the admirably full length of the ball. The opening partnership of seven was Pakistan's highest of the series, a measure of their issues at the top of the order. Imam-ul-Haq, absent since pulling his calf earlier in the game, had spent the morning on the outfield, performatively hopping around trying to hit balls in shorts, his calf heavily strapped. It was no surprise when he did not appear again, thus exposing the top-order even further.

Abdullah Shafique lasted three balls, beaten by Robinson's best ball of the match, one which angled in, jagged away and hit the top of off-stump. Unplayable. When Babar was sent on his way by Archer 13 balls later, Pakistan were 14 for 3 and crumbling. Shan Masood and Shakeel played with welcome character after that, adding 97 in 23 overs, as Masood hung in gamely and Shakeel counter-punched in his stylish, compact way.

They benefited from the change to Josh Tongue and Gus Atkinson. Tongue got the preference of ends, but was a little wayward from round the wicket at the Pavilion End — as yet he is not as proficient bowling to left-handers as right — and Atkinson is far less potent from the Nursery End. So Shakeel cut and drove merrily, bringing up his 50 in 54 balls, and Root had to turn to Archer and Robinson again after a delay for rain. Once again, the game looked inherently more difficult for batting when he did so.

Having battled for more than 2½ hours, Masood moved too far across his stumps to Robinson and Mohammad Rizwan, aiming a sweep and missing, fell on review. Root moved to change bowlers again and Atkinson, given the Pavilion End at last, looked far more dangerous in his second spell, while Tongue warmed up for the tail, his speciality, by hitting Shakeel a resounding blow to the helmet.

Shakeel then decided attack was the better option but fell hooking and the end came swiftly after that.

The bright patches amid the gloom for Pakistan in this match have been fleeting, but Shakeel's batting and Mohammad Abbas's bowling were two. Abbas took two of the three wickets to fall in the morning to get himself on the honours board after three near misses previously. After castling Dan Lawrence and then finding Robinson's outside edge, his delight on finally achieving it was obvious and he went to his knees on the pitch to give thanks.

With the surface and atmospherics combining to offer a helping hand, the skill and accuracy of both Abbas and Robinson created a perfect storm for batsmen. Robinson ended the match on 99 Test wickets and nobody, now, has more at a better average since the First World War. He was trundling in playing grade cricket in Sydney in January, as England finished the Ashes in tatters, but is now at the heart of a team trying to move in a different direction.

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Root's warning on behaviour

scrapped the midnight curfew imposed on his players, was forced to field questions about the drinking habits of his players, who he urged yesterday to show responsibility. "It's important we're not talking about that [late-night drinking], absolutely," Root said.

"It's hard to win Test matches and hard to win Test series, so [we have to] enjoy it and celebrate it but in a sensible, grown-up way."

There had been some criticism of the Lord's pitch in a match that heavily favoured the seam bowlers with 38 wickets falling in a little over 200 overs, but Root said he thought that while they were "challenging conditions", such a seam-heavy series has been caused, in part, by a change to this season's Dukes balls.

"I think the balls have been very different this year," he said. "I think there's a different lacquer to them. I don't know. I've not got evidence on that and probably need to ask Dukes. But I think there's a lacquer on the seam. They don't want them to go out of shape and get them changed. And I think that they are affecting the wickets as well. I think they're denting them more.

"As a batter when you practice, they're cracking your bats more frequently. They seem a lot firmer, and probably if they're dinting the wickets and then it's going to seam off the dints as well, it's going to make it more more. Yes, it's been challenging [for batsmen]."

Robinson, who was named player of the match for the third time this summer — and he has only played three Tests — believes that being part of a four-man seam attack that also contains three genuine pace bowlers has allowed him to focus on consistency of line and length.

"I think being able to be my own bowler and not trying to be too attacking has definitely helped," he said.

From outcast to better

Haul of 23 wickets at 8.34 justifies recall after bowler rediscovered love for game in Australia, writes **Simon Wilde**

It is hard to recall that it was only a few months ago Ollie Robinson was considered surplus to England's requirements. He himself thought he would never play for them again.

And yet he is now sitting on an astonishing summer haul of 23 wickets at 8.34 apiece, a record bettered by only two English bowlers in a home season, both of them left-arm spinners, Tony Lock in 1958 and Bobby Peel in 1888.

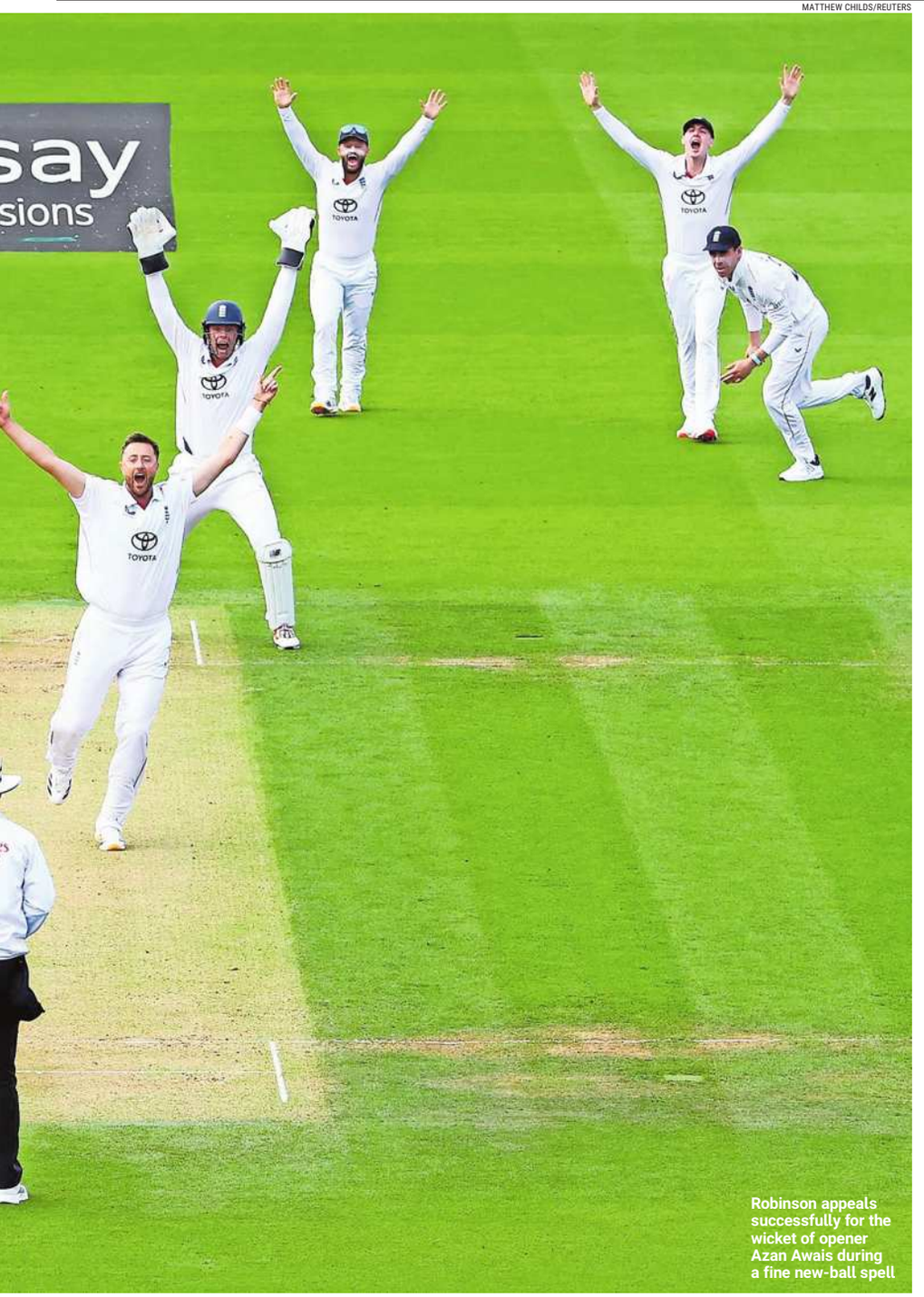
Robinson's return of four for 24 as England sealed a second win of the series lifted his Test record to a remarkable 99 wickets at 19.53, just shading the average of the world's greatest all-format bowler Jasprit Bumrah of 19.79 (in an admittedly lengthier career of 52 matches, compared to Robinson's 23).

No one since the First World War has taken more Test wickets at a lower average than this.

These numbers suggest Robinson cannot have been a bad bowler in his first incarnation as an England player, but several factors have played their part in his recent rehabilitation after two years in the wilderness.

He had a spell in Australian grade cricket with Sydney University which he says helped him rediscover his love for the game. He also put in a lot of work around the early weeks of the county season, which may have been a response to Sussex appointing him championship captain. In a nutshell, the

MATTHEW CHILDS/REUTERS



Robinson appeals successfully for the wicket of opener Azan Awais during a fine new-ball spell

Full scoreboard

ENGLAND First Innings	R	B	M
B Duckett lbw b Abbas	**17**	20	32
E Gay c Rizwan b Abbas	**8**	17	23
J Cox c sub b Shahzad	**55**	105	215
***J Root** lbw b Abbas	**4**	13	24
H Brook b Ali	**15**	26	34
D Lawrence run out	**17**	41	72
†J Smith b Ali	**61**	80	96
G Atkinson c Ali b Usman	**45**	46	102
O Robinson b Ali	**0**	2	2
J Archer b Abbas	**14**	13	14
J Tongue not out	**30**	48	59
Extras (b 2, lb 11, nb 11)	**24**		
TOTAL (66.4 overs)	**290**		

Fall of wickets 1-21, 2-26, 3-36, 4-77, 5-120, 6-187, 7-222, 8-222, 9-243.
Bowling Abbas 20-3-73-4; Shahzad 15-0-79-1; Ali 22-2-86-3; Usman 9.4-1-39-1.

ENGLAND Second Innings	R	B	M
B Duckett c Azam b Shahzad	**1**	6	7
E Gay lbw b Abbas	**31**	74	128
J Cox lbw b Shahzad	**11**	9	8
***J Root** lbw b Ali	**24**	37	72
H Brook c Rizwan b Abbas	**34**	56	99
D Lawrence b Abbas	**54**	70	130
†J Smith c Masood b Abbas	**7**	13	21
G Atkinson lbw b Ali	**7**	21	23
O Robinson c Rizwan b Abbas	**8**	15	29
J Archer not out	**2**	14	27
J Tongue run out	**12**	15	17
Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 4, w 5)	**17**		
TOTAL (54.2 overs)	**208**		

Fall of wickets 1-1, 2-13, 3-60, 4-83, 5-128, 6-149, 7-162, 8-186, 9-187.
Bowling Abbas 22-3-57-5; Shahzad 14-3-56-2; Ali 16.2-1-70-2; Usman 2-0-17-0.

PAKISTAN First Innings	R	B	M
Shan Masood c Smith b Archer	**1**	11	19
Azan Awais c Gay b Robinson	**46**	102	172
Abdullah Shafique c Smith b Tongue	**5**	32	47
***Babar Azam** c Cox b Tongue	**8**	10	12
Saud Shakeel lbw b Robinson	**16**	16	24
†Mohammad Rizwan lbw b Robinson	**7**	20	35
Ali Usman b Archer	**1**	13	14
Khurram Shahzad c Brook b Robinson	**1**	5	6
Mohammad Abbas b Archer	**2**	19	17
Mohammad Ali not out	**3**	8	13
Imam-ul-Haq absent hurt	**–**		
Extras (b 12, lb 1, nb 2, w 5)	**20**		
TOTAL (37.2 overs)	**110**		

Fall of wickets 1-5, 2-16, 3-30, 4-63, 5-91, 6-104, 7-105, 8-106, 9-110.
Bowling Robinson 13-6-11-4; Archer 11.2-1-26-3; Tongue 6-2-27-2; Atkinson 7-1-33-0.

PAKISTAN Second Innings	R	B	M
Shan Masood lbw b Robinson	**26**	72	150
Azan Awais lbw b Robinson	**6**	14	20
Abdullah Shafique b Robinson	**0**	3	3
***Babar Azam** c Cox b Archer	**6**	8	10
Saud Shakeel c Brook b Tongue	**97**	122	192
†Mohammad Rizwan lbw b Robinson	**1**	9	11
Ali Usman b Archer	**16**	44	52
Khurram Shahzad b Tongue	**9**	13	24
Mohammad Abbas not out	**13**	16	23
Mohammad Ali c Brook b Tongue	**8**	5	11
Imam-ul-Haq absent hurt	**–**		
Extras (b 4, lb 6, nb 1, w 1)	**12**		
TOTAL (50.5 overs)	**194**		

Fall of wickets 1-7, 2-7, 3-14, 4-111, 5-115, 6-146, 7-169, 8-176, 9-194.
Bowling Robinson 14-5-24-4; Archer 15-1-73-2; Tongue 8.5-1-46-3; Atkinson 11-2-41-0; Lawrence 2-2-0-0.

Umpires A Paleker (SA) and P Reiffel (Aus). **TV umpire** C Gaffaney (NZ).
Man of the match O Robinson (Eng) ● England lead the three-match series 2-0

average than Bumrah: Robinson's astonishing comeback

32-year-old has acquired a more mature outlook and a broader perspective.

This has led to reverse-engineering on the part of some pundits, who argued England erred in not taking him on the Australia tour, where he might have given them a steadiness with the new ball that was badly lacking. He has given this idea short shrift. "I was nowhere near ready to play," he said.

Robinson had been jettisoned in 2024 partly over concerns about his stamina but chiefly around his speeds, which at about 80mph were deemed unacceptably low for the Test arena. This was probably a genuine concern on the part of the England management but it may not have helped that the Australians had rubbished him for bowling 124kph "nude nuts" and being a "forgettable" cricketer.

If they were swayed by this, England should not have been. Had they done their homework, they would have known pitch conditions in Australia were so juicy that movement off the pitch — not high pace — was king. They should not have given up on Robinson so easily, on such a prescriptive basis. A more open-minded regime might have adopted a more collaborative approach.

Back with a bang

Ollie Robinson's Test bowling average is 8.34 since his return to the England side

Matches Wickets Average Economy

2021	8	37	21.16	2.64
2022	6	23	18.17	2.70
2023	5	16	30.43	2.87
2024	1	0	n/a	4.15
2025	0	0	n/a	n/a
2026	3	23	8.34	2.40

Robinson's recall to the Test side for the New Zealand series in June must have come as a huge relief, but also an enormous boost. He must have gained confidence from knowing his style of bowling was now prized as it had never been before. Not only had others belatedly realised how good Robinson was, he finally grasped this point as well.

The upshot is that he has bowled like someone whose confidence is soaring, someone comfortable in his own skin. The self-belief is evident in the way he varies his position on the crease, the cut he gets on the ball from subtle changes in grip, and his accuracy to right and left-handers alike.

He bounced out Azan Awais in the first innings of this Test but otherwise all his wickets this summer have been with deliveries on or around the stumps. Bowling with the wicketkeeper standing up must have played its part in some of his 11 lbws: eight of his ten wickets to left-handers have fallen this way.

All that said, he has been fortunate with the conditions. The players say the Dukes balls this summer have been harder than those that were in service in 2025, when the India series was plagued with ball changes. The seams appear to be staying prouder for longer and that may have assisted Robinson's degree of movement off the pitch. As the tallest member of England's attack at 6ft 5in, Robinson is likely to extract the greatest "nip" as long as he drives the ball into the surface.

The pitches on which he has played in his three Test appearances this season, two at Lord's and one at Headingley, have all been helpful, with the degrees of movement featuring high on CricViz's list since data was first gathered in 2006. Only one Lord's Test in that time had more movement than this one. The problems Lord's is having with its square are well recorded.

Had Robinson played against New Zealand at the Oval, when he was sidelined with a knee problem, or at Trent Bridge, when England left him out on the flattest Test pitch of the summer, his figures might look less impressive.

The "degrees of movement" figures need to be taken with a pinch of salt, though. The movement that is being generated does not come just from the pitch but also from the skill of the bowlers, and the new art of wobble-seam has had a significant impact on the balance of power between bat and ball. Robinson has been using wobble-seam for several years, but he is now better at it than ever before. He is an exceptionally good bowler.

Sport

What next for Itauma?

Beaten heavyweight, 21, boxed naively but can win world title

Analysis, page 46

'Infantino must resign'

Mikaël Silvestre risks his Fifa role by turning on president

Exclusive interview, The Game, pages 8-9

JAMES MARSH/SHUTTERSTOCK

Root: Celebrate like adults

England seal series with 194-run win at Lord's but captain warns side after late-night incidents

Elizabeth Ammon

Joe Root said he was "delighted" at securing a win in his first series back as England captain, but urged his players to celebrate in a "grown up and sensible way" after the drink-related incidents that have plagued the team. England wrapped up a 194-run win in the second Test of the three-match series after another stellar performance from Ollie Robinson, who finished with match figures of eight for 35 in 27 overs.

Pakistan's Saud Shakeel hit a fighting 97 to take the game deep into the fourth day and Mohammad Abbas now has his name on the Lord's honours board after taking a five-wicket haul. England had not won a Test series since the winter of 2024 and Root praised his team for playing some "very good cricket over the last two weeks in very tough conditions". The returning England captain had started the week admitting he was "hacked off" after preparations for this Test were overshadowed by the seam bowler Brydon Carse being removed from the squad pending an investigation into an incident in Derby in the early hours of Sunday August 23, when footage emerged of the 31-year-old in handcuffs outside a nightclub. Derbyshire police said Carse had been arrested and then de-arrested, and Root, having

Continued on page 50

Everton fans' 'riot' threat forces U-turn

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

Everton are trying to sell Iliman Ndiaye to Tottenham Hotspur for £60 million and re-sign Richarlison for £35 million after a tumultuous 48 hours in which the threat of a fans' revolt prompted a U-turn over plans to offload midfielder Harrison Armstrong.

Events over the weekend exposed owner the Friedkin Group's desire to offload players to raise funds for replenishing David Moyes's squad.

The club had been ready to sanction the sale of the homegrown Armstrong, 19, for £35 million to Nottingham Forest. However, that resulted in an outpouring of fury from Everton fans, who chanted that they would "riot" during Saturday's 1-1 draw with Bournemouth if the deal progressed.

The strength of feeling caused the Americans to back down after realising their error in encouraging Forest's interest. They then turned their attention instead to striking a deal in principle with Tottenham. Ndiaye became an option for Spurs after they missed out on Cody Gakpo, who will join Manchester City if Liverpool can sign a replacement. If everything progresses, Richarlison, 29, would return having been sold to Spurs in 2022.

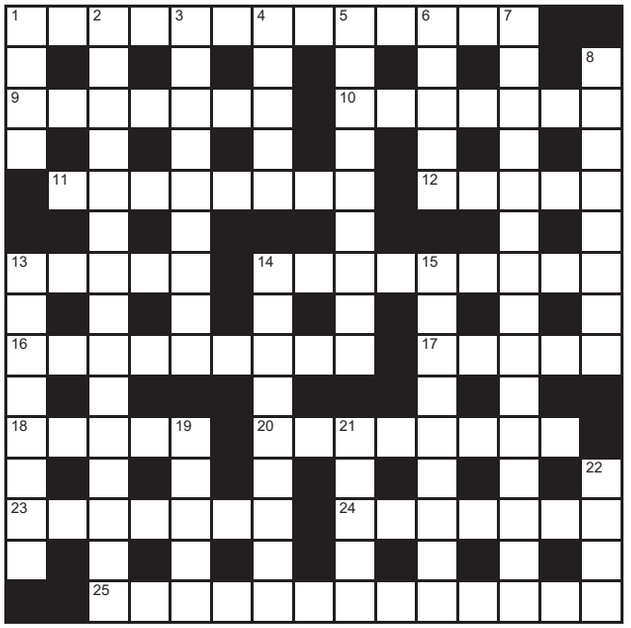
Everton are also interested in Monaco forward Folarin Balogun, a £9 million deal for Fulham right back Kenny Tete is close, and bringing Jack Grealish back on loan from Manchester City is now the subject of club-to-club talks.

Analysis, The Game, page 10

The Game
16 pages of pure football

Inside T2

Times Crossword 29,635



ACROSS

1 It's ending for good, I state after session with old flame (13)
9 Fight about commercial that's boring (7)
10 Better keeping spades and joker (7)
11 I'll recount Scottish island returns with Conservative falling short (8)
12 Austrian psychiatrist — note his ego (5)
13 Sin City reversing direction, rejecting pleasures of flesh? (5)
14 Tears perhaps when children have to turn off TV? (9)
16 Inclined to lift a clue? No sir, I'll go for revision (9)
17 Attempt to tackle addiction to amphetamine wraps (5)
18 Extremists in Iraq accommodated by sanction over veil (5)
20 Taking a gander and goose in van and skewering (8)
23 Leaders of seditious territorial army disgracefully don't await orders (5,2)
24 I don't believe article on America is true to begin with (7)
25 Instrument's role for one of the Pacemakers? (8,5)

DOWN

1 King of the Blues, beset by rivals at table, goes out (4)
2 A far larger squat made into home for prominent metropolitan columnist (9,6)
3 Reshuffle back rank (9)
4 Bay home to rent (5)
5 Soldier dropped in suitable American kit (9)
6 Victor's wife concealed secret (5)
7 Like all-seater stadium, nevertheless (15)
8 Pro-establishment, old right party controlling House with support of Times (8)
13 Elves in legends ultimately transformed despicable character (8)
14 Throw left instead of right? (5-4)
15 Unusually chic broadcaster's going outside and leaves for lunch? (9)
19 Sign of rank, rotten egg served up — it's unfinished (5)
21 Totters back, losing footing, after one followed by another one (5)
22 Shock Brazil et al after making a comeback (4)

Prize solution 29,628

M	E	A	T	H	E	A	D		I	A	M	B	U	S
O		P		E		D				R		R		T
T	A	P	E	R		I	M	B	R	I	C	A	T	E
I		A		O		P		A		A		W		A
V	E	R	T	I	G	O		R	A	D	D	L	E	D
E		A		S		S		G		N				I
		T	E	M	P	E	R	A	M	E	N	T	A	L
A		U				T		I				I		Y
C	U	S	T	O	D	I	A	N	S	H	I	P		
T				C		S		H		I		P		S
I	L	L	N	E	S	S		U	G	L	I	E	S	T
N		E		L		U		N		L		R		I
I	N	T	R	O	V	E	R	T		T	R	A	C	T
D		H		T		E		O		R		C		
E	V	E	N	S	O		T	R	I	P	T	Y	C	H

Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

The winners of Prize Crossword No 29,628 are
A Dean, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent
S Brinkworth, Oswestry, Shropshire
J Russell, Launceston, Cornwall
W Gee, Willaston, Cheshire
C Ross, Leven, Fife

Newspapers support recycling
The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2024 was 34.7%

9 771742 498714 36>

TIMES 2

August 31 | 2026

Giles Yeo and Rose Stokes, hosts of A Matter of Fat

We made a podcast about fatness

And now we're both on the jabs

Harry, Megs and Fergie too. Watch out, the royals are coming home

Polly Vernon

So, they're back, then. Meghan and Harry: fully Megxin! Flew into Birmingham on what I imagine they referred to as a "PJ" — private jet, chartered in California at a cost of $12,000 (£9,000) an hour — are residing "indefinitely" in the Cotswolds, holed up in the SH (spare house) of an EWB (extremely wealthy benefactor), who may or may not be hedge fund billionaire, Ian Wace, a longtime friend of the Sussexes and the presumed bankroller of their return to England. It is from this base that Meghan and Harry will find their latest new home, from whence Harry will act as full-time dad, while Archie and Lilibet enter the British schooling system, and Meghan may come and go, between California and here, in the interest of pursuing her career as a... What was it, again?

Jam influencer? Former actress, teetering on the verge of a comeback? Humanitarian?

Oh — one of those!

Anyway. It sounds blissful! Bucolic — but also, *expensive*, which is the best kind of bucolic. No wonder Harry — said to be miserable while in Montecito, friendless and purpose-less — is *ecstatic* about his new circumstances! Wandering round the English countryside, huge grin on his face, reacquainting himself with British songbirds and pubs, not at all missing the neighbours in California, all of whom seem to be leaking like sieves to the UK press. (One, identified as "Susan", told The Mail on Sunday: "I left a bottle of wine at their gate to welcome them and it was returned, unopened, the following day." Another, said the Sussexes left Montecito "with a whimper, not a bang". And a third said: "The general impression is, good riddance.") But all that's behind Harry, along with the ignominy of being dropped by Spotify *and* downgraded by Netflix. He's back on home turf, from which, all the better to rebuild bridges, his son will play cricket, and... Oh, hang on, though, because how *weird*!

Despite all that, Harry is *not* happy. At all. He's "just as angry" as he was when he left the UK six years ago, according to The Mail on Sunday. "Friends who caught up with Harry were expecting to hear noises of contrition and humility," said a source. "Instead, there will be no imminent mea culpa from Harry by the sounds of things. Far from it, in fact. He is still in that Oprah mindset. They were agog [AGOG!] to hear he still feels angry with members of the royal family, is still frustrated by the 'men in grey suits' who surround his father, and still expects an apology."

The shape of Harry's anger is that he feels sure Palace aides are attempting to sabotage his rapprochement with King Charles (because it couldn't possibly be,

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Below: Sarah Ferguson

could it, that Harry's own past and pretty recent behaviours make some people — people with entirely legitimate agendas — wonder re the optics of our monarch embracing his youngest son with alacrity, and so soon?), and is equally convinced that those "men in grey suits" are negatively impacting his chances of regaining armed, tax-funded protection by infiltrating Ravec, the board that assesses, appoints — or denies — security.

Ah, that is one heady mix of paranoia and self-pity, isn't it? Rooted, surely, in the death of his mother, Diana — the anniversary of which is today — then allowed to flourish long beyond a point of it being anything but harmful to him. Enabled by OPM — other people's money, ie the taxpayers' — until six years ago, now that of a wealthy benefactor. Really quite exhausting for all involved: for his family, the estranged and the not-so; for us, his former subjects; presumably, even for his wife... But most of all, for *him*.

And, because flitting in and out of self-imposed exile seems to be a phase the royals — or rather, people who used to be royal, but circumstances changed — just sort of go through these days, another return! That of Sarah Ferguson, who was Duchess of York until her ex-husband, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, was stripped of his title and has spent the months since she and he were booted out of the Royal Lodge at Windsor in a Swiss chalet in Verbier. But, yes. She's also coming back to the UK.

According to The Sun, Ferguson has rented a six-bedroom property in an as-yet unidentified home county; it's got three bathrooms and a "granny annexe" (is Fergie the granny to be annexed? TBD). It's gated, which, considering revelations regarding Ferguson's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein (a convicted child sex offender who, according to private emails she sent to him after that conviction, was her "supreme friend", the "brother" she "always wished for"), is probably for the best. There's a skip in the driveway, broadband has been installed; it all costs a reported £10,000 a month. Given Ferguson is notoriously bad with money and has been moaning to friends about being "broke" while hiding out up mountains, it does rather make you wonder if she too has an extremely wealthy benefactor? Or was left something (very) substantial in her ex-boyfriend Paddy McNally's will?

Will Ferguson's return overshadow that of Harry and Meghan? No, but it might make it look a bit more common — basic, predictable, and so forth. It might also sully the broader reputation of The Return, given that the Sussexes departed in righteous fury and seem to have returned in the same, while Ferguson, who slunk off in secret and shame with multiple burner phones, seems to be re-entering in a spirit of defiance and with a threatened tell-all TV interview in the works. Oops.

The brutal reality of the graduate job search

It's the toughest employment market on record for those leaving university. Emily Shulman says the struggle to get a job is an increasingly desperate one

Last week I opened my inbox to yet another rejection letter.

"Dear Emily, thank you for taking the time to apply, but due to a very high volume of applicants we cannot provide you with personalised feedback right now. Please check our LinkedIn for other career opportunities..."

By now, I barely need to read beyond the first line. Whether it's "we've decided to move forward with other candidates", "the standard of applications was exceptionally high" or "we've chosen someone with more relevant experience", the message is always the same, and often written by AI. After applying for more than 100 jobs in the past year, I've become fluent in rejection.

It feels intensely personal but this problem is nationwide. Graduates are facing the worst job market on record, according to a report this week. The recruitment website Adzuna found that from a peak of more than 55,000 graduate posts in 2017, vacancies are now down 85 per cent.

Job applications, interviews and rejection emails have become the main topic of conversation among my friends. Some have had to go back to the retail or hospitality jobs they had as teenagers. Some are still sending out applications more than a year after graduating, while some have taken unpaid internships in the hope that more experience on their CV may finally be enough to secure a paid role.

At university our WhatsApp group chats were filled with plans for nights out, screenshots of dating app conversations and pictures of what everyone was planning on wearing that weekend. Now all I see are screenshots of rejection emails.

"Another one," someone will send, followed by the familiar opening line thanking them for their application. We've started laughing about it because the alternative is just depressing. Between us, we have degrees, master's degrees, internships and work experience. But what most of us don't have is the one thing all of it was supposed to lead to: a job. And it seems it doesn't matter which sector — the rejections are the same.

Friends who did PGDL law conversions have tried to get training contracts since and been unsuccessful. They are now trying for paralegal roles. Others who are interested in talent management and social media jobs have drawn blanks. Some have done ten-week marketing internships at top companies and then not been offered the graduate scheme at the end. It's not just graduates with arts subjects who are struggling. I have a friend who studied biochemistry who, after failing to find any science-related jobs, has taken temping work at an insurance company.

When I finished my degree in criminology and sociology at the University of Nottingham in 2025, I knew finding work wouldn't be easy so I took a master's in journalism at Goldsmiths, University of London, and tried to build up my CV with work experience placements, thinking I had done enough to really stand out. Turns out I was wrong.

I've applied for jobs in content management, PR, communications and the media and I've only got as far as five interviews. I always ask for feedback, hoping there may be something I can improve, yet the response is predictably polite but vague. The most common is that the role went to someone with "more experience". So how do graduates my age gain that experience when every entry-level role seems to require it already?

Every careers adviser, lecturer and employer gives people like me the same advice: get experience, hone your CV. Yet the more I have built my CV, the further away the finish line seems to move. Roles advertised as "entry level" increasingly ask for one, two or sometimes five years of experience. Internships want previous internships and graduate jobs want graduates who have already done the job. So the answer is always the

EMIL KUNDA/GAVIN ALEXANDER FOR THE TIMES

Emily Shulman

same... or there's no answer at all.

My older sister, who is one year ahead of me, has had a similar experience. After doing a degree in philosophy and politics at the University of Leeds, she did a postgraduate diploma in law at the University of Law. However, despite her having four years of higher education, finding her first legal job proved far harder than she had expected. Eventually she had to move from London to Manchester for a paralegal role, even though the firm she works for has a London office.

I'm now back living with my parents, as are most of my friends. After the freedom of university it has been, let's say, an adjustment. Sometimes I wonder whether my parents quite understand how difficult finding a job has become. My dad tells stories about his peers leaving school at 16, walking into top companies that probably wouldn't even look at my CV today and being offered jobs on the spot.

They will often say: "So-and-so's son works here, why don't you reach out?" But I don't think they realise that while a contact may point you in the right direction, most companies have formal application processes that everyone is expected to go through.

Our social lives have changed too. Spending so much of my time firing off CVs and job applications has left little room for dating. When I open my phone I don't head to Hinge or Tinder any more, I go straight to LinkedIn. Without regular incomes, and with sizeable student loans weighing over us, my friends and I have swapped expensive nights out for cooking at each other's houses or going to the cinema. We joke about being broke and try to raise each other's spirits at the weekends. But during the week we're back on job sites, firing off applications, partly in the hope of starting our careers and partly, we joke, to get our parents off our backs.

We all fear that with the rise of AI, our first step to a job is being made even harder. As AI becomes capable of carrying out some of the research and basic content tasks traditionally given to junior employees, what is there left for us to do? Meanwhile, increases to national insurance contributions and the minimum wage appear to have made employing entry-level staff less appealing to companies.

Perhaps the rejection that hurt most was from Gail's on my local high street. I had walked in with a copy of my CV on the off-chance they needed someone, expecting to hand it over and hear nothing more. Instead, they interviewed me there and then. I left feeling optimistic that perhaps something might finally have clicked. It hadn't. Twenty minutes later I received a phone call saying I didn't have the right experience for that role either. After four years of higher education I didn't have the right experience to serve coffee.

So where am I now? Between applications I take on market research and sell clothes on Vinted to make some extra money. Then I open LinkedIn, Indeed and my inbox and start the process again.

My relationship with rejection has changed too. At the beginning I took every one personally. I would reread the email, wonder what was wrong with my application and convince myself that I should have written my cover letter differently. Now I'm becoming inured to the constant brush-offs — especially those that are clearly generated by AI.

I haven't stopped trying, though. I'll probably send another application tomorrow, and another the day after that. I'll continue rewriting cover letters, searching job boards and hoping that eventually one employer will take a chance on me. Because, despite everything, I still believe someone eventually has to say yes.

> **The more I have built my CV, the further away the finish line moves**

Help! My wife's cat is out to wreck our marriage

He's called Satan. Don't make the mistake of trying to stroke him. By Rob Crossan

CIRCE HAMILTON FOR THE TIMES

When Emma and I started dating five years ago, my wife-to-be issued a warning early on: she owned a cat who she felt she had no choice but to call Satan. "Cookie [his original name] just didn't seem right after the first few days," she admitted while ushering me into her kitchen for my first encounter with her beloved pet.

Jet black and recovering from a recurring bout of herpes of the eye, Satan was a big lad, looking almost bovine from side on. Emma related to me how this stout-looking brute adored her but he had "issues" with anyone else. This, she claimed, was due to him coming from a "bad home". Pressing further, I learnt that the owner of the house where Satan's mother had her kittens left the living room window open, allowing the tom cat father to jump inside and murder one of Satan's brothers when the litter was a week or two old.

I'm a lifelong cat lover and have owned many over the years but, hard as I tried to bond with Satan, I was dealing with a cat who disliked me and appeared set on destroying my nascent relationship with Emma.

Hissing, scratching me if I went within tail-swishing distance and spitting was the start of his attrition. Satan quickly developed an intuitive ability to injure himself just as we would be due to depart for our holidays. A break in Scotland was cancelled when he managed to trap one leg inside the washing machine. The vet in West Norwood is nowhere near as romantic as a restaurant in Fort William.

Buying a house together and getting married this year has done nothing to diminish Satan's desire to have his owner all to himself. While some cats dream of milk and mice, Satan, I am certain, dreams of decrees absolute.

He has always been uxorious towards Emma but now, when she gets back from her nursing shifts, he follows her like the most sycophantic groupie, pausing only to stare at me with an expression that reads, "Are you *still* here, Rob?"

Of late, things have got even more out of hand. I realise the cat can't read yet he seems to know which letters are addressed to me. Mail for Emma is left untouched on the doormat while mine is repurposed, first as a scratching post and then, to my horror, a litter tray. Moderately amusing when I received a Lambeth council tax bill, this feline dirty protest became less funny when I couldn't read the new Patrick Radden Keefe hardback I'd ordered due to it being saturated with cat urine.

We're simply not in the economic bracket to afford the luxury of cat psychologists. My only comfort is that Satan hates everyone else too. Our next-door neighbour has been savaged by him in her back garden while various friends have departed our home with plasters on their forearms after committing such heinous crimes as attempting to stroke him (despite our warnings) or simply wanting to pass him in the hallway.

I could never demand that my wife get rid of this four-legged impediment. Emma is sympathetic to the situation but, perhaps because she's Swedish, continues to believe that inherent goodness lurks inside all creatures. "All it takes to find it is a bit more kitty compassion," she told me reassuringly after I had endured another scratching attack. I would have added "gauntlets" to her list but I was too busy looking for antiseptic at the time.

Last month she bought a bow-tie collar in the colours of her national flag to place around Satan's neck, confident that the spirit of tolerance and calm that predominates in her homeland would transfer over to him. It was a forlorn hope. She might as well have stuck a Greenpeace badge on Hannibal Lecter.

However, as Satan embarks on his new early autumn campaign to clamp himself to my study armchair and chew it into bite-sized pieces, I now suspect that his presence in my life is a form of feline comeuppance. This malicious moggy is six years old. How did I behave when I was that age? I was aggressive, didn't listen to anyone and believed I could do exactly as I wanted. Satan is without doubt simply my horrible childhood self reincarnated — with added herpes. Realising this has given me the stoic resolve to endure this third-party threat to my nuptial bliss.

"Hell is other people's cats" is what Sartre, a man who would probably have approved of an awkward domestic *ménage à trois*, should have written. Still, I suspect even he would have struggled had one of the party been using his post as a litter tray.

She supported body positivity. He's a top scientist. Both take GLP-1s

Giles Yeo is a world-leading metabolic expert who says excess weight is unhealthy. Rose Stokes advocated for self-acceptance. Now they have each gone on the jabs — and made a podcast together. By Katie Glass

COVER AND BELOW: CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES

"Obviously I hate being photographed," says Rose Stokes as she slips another dress over her head, and my heart sinks. I thought I was meeting a body-positivity campaigner who celebrated curves — and with her a diet scientist who would encourage weight loss free of jabs. But in reality Stokes and her podcast co-presenter, Giles Yeo, are more complex, more human and more honest — and that's why their new podcast about weight, *A Matter of Fat*, looks set to be so interesting.

They came up with the idea after realising their experiences of weight both conflicted and overlapped. I tease them that they're the Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart of diets, but it's not a wild comparison.

Stokes, 38, has "lived in a body that is deemed to be too big for the majority of my life". Yeo, 53, is a professor of molecular neuroendocrinology at the MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit at the University of Cambridge. Between them they bring a sort of combined left-right-brain approach to conversation about size that has never felt more pertinent. As Stokes puts it, the past couple of years "have been a real whiplash scenario", ricocheting from body-positivity campaigns celebrating curves to GLP-1 weight-loss jabs reviving skinny culture.

Given their podcast is called *A Matter of Fat*, I wonder what the f-word means to them both. Their answers reveal their differences. For Yeo, "When you say the word 'fat', I think about it as a very scientific question. What does it mean to be fat? What is fat? I see the organ. I think of fat as a liver, as a kidney."

For Stokes — who went on her first diet at 11 — it's far more charged. She prevaricates about whether she finds hearing the word painful. "When you say 'fat', the first thing I think of is my six-year-old self in a playground and things that people have said to me over my life," she begins, but although she goes on to claim to have let go of her fear of "fat", I notice she doesn't look me in the eye as she says it.

> "It almost felt easier to give in to GLP-1s than to accept myself

Stokes's first memory of feeling fat was at junior school, when a girl in the lunch queue told her she was. Since then, she feels her weight has been "following me around my entire life, colouring my personal relationships, my experiences of the world, who knows what work opportunities". She has fantasised about "how much less complicated my life would have been if there hadn't been this dominant idea in my head that I was repulsive or I was disgusting".

Has she ever enjoyed her body? Apparently only when pregnant: "I had these two beautiful babies and they were perfect and my body did everything it was supposed to do." Otherwise, she has never loved it. "I've often felt like my relationship with my body is terminal," she says.

It's unsurprising that, around 2012, when the third wave of the body-positivity movement emerged, in some ways for Stokes it felt amazing. "Seeing people in bigger bodies on catwalks and in magazines, all of those things had a really positive effect," she says. She could buy clothes where she wanted, see plus-sized models on runways, follow fat influencers on Instagram and see them in beauty campaigns. "Suddenly I was allowed to post pictures of my body and people were, like, 'Yeah!'" Did it feel good? "It really did." Although — somewhat confusingly — it came at a time when she had lost a substantial amount of weight but was still a curvaceous size 14. "I did feel a large amount of acceptance, and it does make me laugh because some of those people that, when I was a kid, were calling me fat were now following me on social media." She wrote her own fat-positive pieces for publication.

Yeo, who had spent 20 years then (30-plus now) studying the genes influencing childhood obesity, had a different experience of the body-positivity movement. "The people online that hate me the most," he says, "are first the vegans, second the evangelical carnivores, and then the evangelical body-positive movement."

Although Yeo is at pains to point out that he has never judged anyone, he stands by "the biological statement that if you carry too much fat, it increases your chance of ill health".

"I think this is a statement of fact," he says, as if that means anything online these days. But that simple assertion "they just kind of twist into 'you hate fat people'". During the body-positivity moment it was a criticism he heard loudly and repeatedly.

Just as the movement blew up, causing arguments over the merits of putting a size-26 Tess Holliday on Cosmopolitan's cover (Piers Morgan criticised it as "dangerous and misguided"), the conversation twisted again when GLP-1 receptor agonists came to the fore.

Stokes quickly noticed the shift. Plus-size models started vanishing. Size-inclusive launches stopped as brands reduced their size ranges. Once-curvaceous celebrities — including Rebel Wilson, Lizzo and the *All About That Bass* singer Meghan Trainor — started slimming. Stokes, observing all of this, coined the phrase "shrinking girl summer" in an article that quickly went viral. Meanwhile she found herself trying to guess which former body-positivity advocates on Instagram were now fat-jabbing. Was she angry with them? No, she says, rather she saw it as proof that thin culture was powerful and overwhelming: "We were all saying that we totally had let go of this thing, but I think it's stronger than any of us."

Yeo was less surprised. "We've known about these GLP-1 medications for 20 years," he says, with a shrug. They were originally licensed for diabetes, but Yeo remembers the landmark study testing semaglutides specifically for obesity that revealed they led to a 15 per cent weight loss over 68 weeks. "The big surprise to everybody, including the people who make the damn drugs, was that no one foresaw the cultural shift that would happen," he says. "Is there any space in any world five years ago that I would say that one in eight of all Americans are on some version of GLP-1s? That probably a year from now, 10 per cent of all people in the UK will be on some version of these drugs? Are you freaking kidding me?" Now those drugs are a massive weight-loss industry, with the Danish manufacturer of Wegovy, Novo Nordisk, valued at more than $500 billion.

Stokes was not shocked by the enthusiasm with which fat jabs were taken up. She saw the love affair coming: "I would have predicted it but only because I know how much turmoil this issue puts in people's heads," she says.

Here's the rub: Yeo confesses during

Giles Yeo and Rose Stokes, hosts of the podcast A Matter of Fat

A Matter of Fat launches on September 15 on all platforms. shows.acast.com/a-matter-of-fat

our interview that he is now on the jabs. I find it quite shocking. If a metabolism expert can't lose weight without them, does that mean we're all screwed? He shakes his head. "Losing weight is not an information problem. If you ask anyone what is a roughly healthy diet or what you need to do to roughly lose weight, you'll probably get the right answer. It's a biological problem interacting with the world around us."

He has lost 20lb on the jabs so far. Does Stokes feel disappointed? "Look, it genuinely isn't any of my business what other people do with their bodies," she says. "I don't blame anyone for doing whatever they do just to feel good about themselves."

She is, however, "very, very, very concerned about how easy it is for people to get these drugs". Yeo was prescribed them online, with a BMI of 27, in 22 minutes (he's a scientist — of course he timed it).

My real surprise comes when Stokes says she's now also on the jabs. "I did go back and forth, mainly because I had been out there saying to people, 'You should accept yourself,'" she says. "I had written quite a lot of body-positivity stuff and I felt worried about being judged, but the truth is that I was the heaviest I'd ever been after my second child was born and I wasn't comfortable. I didn't feel healthy."

Having tried the jabs once and not got on with them, she is taking them again and is honest about her ambivalence. She is torn between the dual demands "to love yourself completely and not want to change ever — or diet culture. And I didn't want to endorse either of those."

Despite the joy she found in the body-positivity movement, she also says she couldn't rid herself of the pressure of thin culture, "programming someone's brain from early childhood into this idea that you have to be striving for something different. I never thought it was completely possible to let go of that desire and it almost felt easier to give in to the GLP-1s than to accept myself."

In a way it feels like a "gotcha" moment. Look! Here is proof that the body-positivity movement I always suspected was a sham is as disingenuous as I predicted. But instead, I just feel sad that the beautiful woman before me has never seen herself that way in the mirror.

I ask Stokes and Yeo if perhaps their podcast creates a conundrum: that by talking about weight, even if you're rejecting the notion you should be thin, you're reinforcing the idea that weight is important?

"I think weight is important," Yeo says, "not because it belittles who you are, degrades who you are or anything like that. Weight is important because everyone has weight. And for a lot of people, if you carry too much, it's because of your weight that you are less healthy."

Stokes admits she has wondered if "it was healthy for me to spend so much of my time talking about this subject because actually it has caused me quite a lot of damage in the past", but ultimately she feels the discussion is too important to ignore. "Every single time I've ever spoken about this, there have been so many people that have said, 'Me too.'" Sharing experiences, she says, is a way to take this subject "out of the shame bucket — and try and be a bit normal about it in a less moral, less blamey, less emotionally charged way".

Priority tills? Free online food deliveries? In France I'm now a VIP mum-to-be

In the UK friends complain about maternity care and commuters. Here, it's fantastic.

By Rachel Hosie

Rachel Hosie

When my husband and I moved to France for his job immediately after getting married last year, we weren't sure if we wanted to have a baby abroad. We were both 32 and knew we wanted children but wouldn't we miss having family around? And what about the rites of passage my friends had gone through, like the Mamas & Papas shopping appointments and making mum friends through NCT classes? However, once we settled into our life of croissants and chaotic driving down on the Côte d'Azur, we changed our minds.

As of now I'm about halfway through my pregnancy and just transitioning out of the "is she pregnant or did she just smash a buffet?" phase. And while I expected (and experienced) nausea, weird cravings (chocolate milk and sweetcorn, not together) and an aversion to the smell of the fridge, the one thing I didn't expect was to be treated like a VIP in France.

Back home, pregnant friends complain of commuters who stare at their phones on the Tube instead of giving up their seats and talk of postcode lotteries when it comes to maternity care and packed labour wards. Here, meanwhile, supermarkets and even post offices have dedicated counters, priority tills and queue-jump lanes for pregnant women, disabled people and the elderly. As a pregnant woman, I get free delivery from the supermarket Carrefour provided that we spend €60 (funnily enough, it's never been an issue — growing a baby is hungry work) and the perk lasts for a year.

There's an official priority card too, issued by the French family welfare and social security office to expectant mothers in France that gives them priority not just on public transport but also in public administration offices and museums.

And there's also a general air of goodwill. Recently, while huffing and puffing my way up a hill in the heat, I was buoyed by a woman who wound down her car window to wish me "*bon courage*" and tell me I would have a "*bon bébé*". Whether the luck was for the rest of the pregnancy or the hill, I don't know, but I was glad of the encouragement.

In Britain there are headlines about maternal deaths during pregnancy, labour and postpartum being at a 20-year-high and so many accounts of women who feel let down. And while I'm sure it's not as simple as one country good, the other bad, all I've heard so far from new friends who have given birth in France are glowing testimonies about the prenatal care, birth experience and postpartum support. They have waxed lyrical about being in a private room for their entire stay, which is often up to four days to ensure both mother and baby are doing well before they go home.

For most people in the UK, the 12-week scan is the first time you know that your baby is growing safely inside you. In France I was sent for two blood tests to confirm that the pregnancy hormone was rising correctly immediately after seeing that

> **A woman wound down her car window to wish me 'bon courage'**

second line on a test. Since then I've visited my midwife every four weeks and have been able to see our little baby wriggling around on the screen at every appointment (it was more of a blob at six weeks but a blob with a heartbeat). This is on top of the ultrasound I get with a sonographer each trimester.

Every month I'm sent for blood and urine tests to check for various markers but always toxoplasmosis. There is a lot of chat around toxoplasmosis during pregnancy in France (my excuse for avoiding gardening for nine months), which is strange because when I mentioned this to my British friends with babies, they'd never even heard of it.

I am still struggling with pregnancy sickness midway through my second trimester ("morning" sickness is a misnomer — who knew?). However, I've been prescribed the miracle anti-sickness drug Xonvea, which I can pick up whenever I need it. In the UK doctors are far less willing to prescribe it because it's expensive. Someone I know was told to prove she still needed the medication (throw up on cue?) and another woman got so desperate that she has been paying about £250 a month to get the drug privately.

In France healthcare generally is a bit more complicated but pretty generous: 70 to 100 per cent of costs are covered by social security until you reach the sixth month of pregnancy, at which point all costs are 100 per cent covered. This includes the birth but also postnatal visits, perineal rehab sessions and dental check-ups up to 12 weeks afterwards. Expats have a slightly different set-up but I am fortunate to be covered by the health insurance we have through my husband's work.

It's not all better, of course. Eating out is a bit of a minefield, what with the French love of rare meat and unpasteurised cheeses. Despite my greatest efforts, ordering a fully cooked-through burger remains a challenge too tricky to accomplish. A couple of weeks ago a waiter recommended a boozy crème brûlée, assuring me it was fine because the eggs were pasteurised.

Generally, though, I feel in very safe hands in France. I might miss out on the famous NHS post-labour tea and toast but some champagne and a pain au chocolat will do nicely.

life

Ask Professor Tanya Byron

My menopausal niece isn't coping well with her unruly son

Q My niece and her partner have one child, a 14-year-old son. I am petrified for his future. He spends hours playing games on his phone, which he uses to talk to the few friends he has (he won't see them in person outside school).

He hates school and throws tantrums in the morning, having stayed up late on his phone. He has poor personal hygiene and spends far too much time with adults as he does not want to attend after-school clubs. I see a teenager with no happy future.

I think his parents give him too much power. He swears at them and hits them if he doesn't get his own way, and it seems there are very few consequences. The parents have been offered online parenting classes, which my niece says she's too tired to do, and her son has been offered counselling at school, which she doesn't know if he has engaged with.

If I try to talk to her son I'm told to "leave him alone". I daren't raise anything like a criticism of her parenting as she'd fly off the handle and accuse me of not understanding as I don't have children.

She has a lot on her plate: an unhelpful partner, she is unhappy at work, and has other caring responsibilities as well. However, I can't ignore that they are raising an unhappy, selfish, unsociable son.

I know I have to raise this with my (menopausal) niece. Can you advise?
Sue

A You are clearly very worried about your great-nephew. You are also in a very difficult position because while your instinct is to raise your concerns, attempts seem to be met with resistance.

While I agree that clearer boundaries, united parenting and consistency would be of benefit, your great-nephew's behaviour may be signalling underlying issues that need addressing. Adolescence is a period of enormous neurological, social and emotional change when many teenagers become withdrawn, sleep badly, neglect personal hygiene, retreat online and push boundaries.

While behaviour that goes beyond what we expect developmentally tells us something is wrong, it doesn't tell us what. That needs to be understood before solutions are offered.

He seems to become highly distressed when demands are placed on him. His tantrums before school look like bad behaviour but may indicate a child who finds the social, sensory and educational demands exhausting: is he being bullied, are there neurodevelopmental differences (eg autism, ADHD), is he struggling with clinical levels of anxiety (we don't only avoid — flight — or freeze when anxious, we also fight), does he have learning difficulties? His sleep difficulties and emotional dysregulation could also stem from overwhelm at managing everyday demands.

How can you help? Your urge to intervene must be balanced against your niece's present state. When others are already overwhelmed or feel criticised, our efforts to solve things can inadvertently increase defensiveness, and the harder we push, the more they pull away.

Your great-nephew is spending too much time online, struggling at school, and at home is non-compliant, defiant, aggressive and occasionally violent — none of these are trivial. I am, however, equally struck by your description of his mother. Unhappy at work, menopausal and living with an unhelpful partner: she is an exhausted and overwhelmed parent.

It is well established that chronic stress narrows our capacity to think, plan and tolerate conflict. Also, when we are overwhelmed we instinctively seek ways to quickly reduce distress, even if they create longer-term problems. From a psychological perspective, this includes "accommodation", eg giving in to avoid an argument, allowing another hour online because we cannot face a battle.

If you would like Professor Tanya Byron's help, email proftanyabyron@thetimes.co.uk

The relief is immediate, but the behaviour is reinforced because parent and child quickly learn that conflict ends when the parent backs down. Over time, parental responses become driven by avoidance rather than solving problems.

The focus needs to shift from trying to address directly your great-nephew's behaviour to increasing his mother's emotional resources. The stress-vulnerability model helps us to understand how, when life's demands exceed our emotional and practical resources, our ability to think clearly and regulate our emotions diminishes — life becomes much harder, consistent parenting difficult.

Equally relevant is parental self-efficacy: a parent's belief that they are capable of managing their child. Chronic stress can erode that confidence. In her state, your niece may be avoiding the online parenting course because a) stress-vulnerability: she hasn't got the bandwidth to engage with it and b) parental self-efficacy: it reinforces a belief she probably already holds — that she is a bad parent.

I therefore advise that you make your niece your focus rather than her son. First create a supportive and safe relationship. Begin by acknowledging her numerous stressors and the toll they must be taking on her.

If your niece feels understood she is more likely to reflect on what she needs, which gives you an opening to ask how she feels she's coping and what you could do to help. Curiosity lowers defensiveness, while criticism almost always increases it.

Practical support will also be powerful. Rather than offering advice, offer relief: cook a meal, take her out for coffee and let her talk without trying to fix — being listened to often enables us to reach our own solutions. You could provide her with helpful information about the menopause and support her to consult her GP (themenopausecharity.org).

You could offer to do the online parenting programme alongside. You could even research other sources of support for her including the Parents Helpline at youngminds.org.uk and coramfamilylives.org.uk, which offers confidential parenting and family support, including around behaviour.

These gestures may seem small, but by reducing her cognitive and emotional load they can help to restore the emotional bandwidth she needs to accept the help offered.

Of greatest concern, however, is your great-nephew's physical aggression towards his parents. This behaviour, which is clearly communicating that he needs help, could be a safeguarding issue. His aggression therefore needs both boundaries and understanding.

If your niece has been given an online parenting course I suspect the needs of the family have, at some level, been recognised. But the help offered is not enough and that needs to be flagged. I would encourage your niece to speak openly to the pastoral or safeguarding lead at the school.

They could help the family to access local early help: support provided through local authorities and other services when a child or family is struggling, ideally before problems become more serious (search "Early help and early intervention services" at youngminds.org.uk). This isn't about labelling a 14-year-old but recognising that their family needs more support.

Your great-nephew's future is not being decided by who he is at 14; it will be shaped by what the adults around him do next. Therefore, your most powerful intervention will be a steady, compassionate presence alongside non-judgmental support.

Discover Cheltenham Literature Festival 2026

The Times and Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival returns from October 9 to 18 with more than 400 events across fiction, poetry, politics, performance and family activities. This year's line-up includes Sandi Toksvig, Joe Marler, Michael Morpurgo, Katherine Parkinson and Mary Berry. Times+ members can book ahead of general sale which starts on September 3. **Visit thetimes.com/timesplus**

TIMES+

T&Cs apply.

Bank holiday Jumbo crosswords

Jumbo crossword No 1807

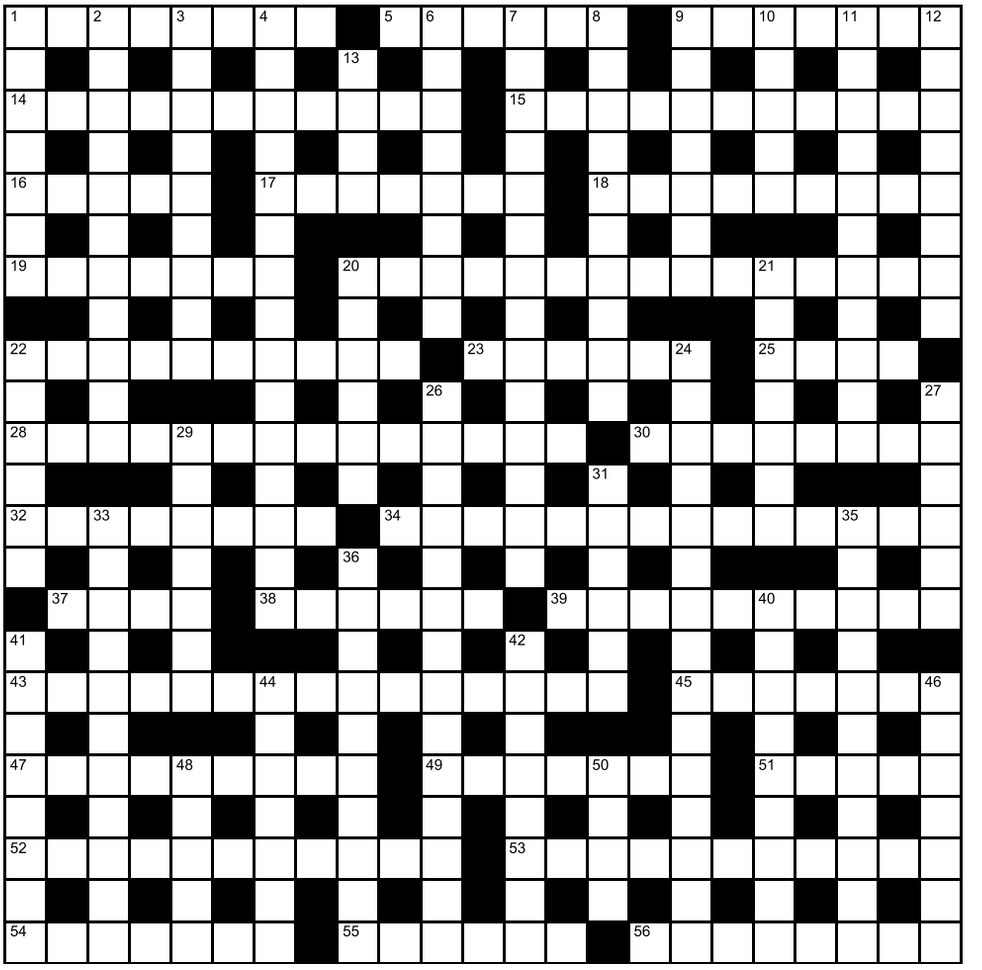
Cryptic clues

Across

1 Sell-out of English carrier absorbed in BA deal finally (8)
5 Surf tops end of promenade (6)
9 Reinstate trees damaged outside gate (7)
14 Homework — a chunk exhausted senior already covered (11)
15 Popular core to next seriously thoughtful budget (11)
16 Accepted proposition advanced by Isle of Man (5)
17 Partly cover remaining drink (7)
18 Rough punishment of hard character to a tee? (4,5)
19 What can reproduce staggering hundred with leg repeated? (3,4)
20 In-your-face prisoner, loud, going round trapping some number (15)
22 Deciding trick, key in writing things like this (10)
23 Have in mind fashionable number, band's last (6)
25 Carry little child with little energy (4)
28 Message on cleaner paper (5,9)
30 Note canid put back in native genus of mammals once (8)
32 Itemise at the outset every new expense recorded for auditor (8)
34 Not simple to make out messy pile behind acre (14)
37 Attempt securing win's ending in tie (4)
38 Channel fish eating what's offered by both French and Brits? (6)
39 Sparkling beers a bit after work (10)
43 Law official initially returned for Georgia? (8,7)
45 Improve look of casual ship's officer returning after days (5,2)
47 One looking at body tats Naomi's sporting (9)
49 Interminable missing mates when Friday's wiped out (7)
51 Mature exercise taken in runs home (5)
52 Earl left cross beset by crooked militant (11)
53 It can mean to corrupt (11)
54 Ayatollahs backed for 70 per cent growth (7)
55 Hot and humid outcome that's not concerning railway (6)
56 Live and aware broadcast that is not lacking heart (8)

Down

1 I intend boarding British Eastern aircraft (7)
2 What could go to making Keith musical (3,4,3,1)
3 What can go off in the style of jolly telephone call (5,4)
4 Confession of bent Camden Town geek in possession of pounds (15)
6 Give way about char being suggestive (8)
7 Uppity youngster with trendier small one asleep (14)
8 Fair number going topless passed (4-6)
9 Primarily a copy in likeness possessing eerie resemblance — straight up! (7)
10 More than one wrong about uranium cavity (5)
11 Dogmatic old wing nowadays penning extremes of twaddle (11)
12 Watches lecture — it's on crab (8)
13 Stare at search on the internet without leave (4)
20 What may be caught, comparatively lengthy, putting out line? (6)
21 Say in cold seasons when coat is off one? (7)
22 Conservative mess losing millions — hold tight (6)
24 Wife misled badly over moderate fungal infection (5,3,7)
26 Superior canal ends in redesign with Trent (14)
27 Speculate, very involved in current home (6)
29 Unknown island tree — one bearing fruit? (7)
31 Drive off short period after I'd got up (6)
33 Imported plant, a form of Asian *Tulipa* (11)
35 Joint on dish which is tough to cut through (11)
36 Insubstantial rowing boat stopping in awkward slews (10)
40 Might I put in drained herb? (9)
41 Pardoned robber group trapped in pubs (8)
42 One managing the show for leader supported by king (8)
44 Easy to see identification during incident (7)
46 Author with depression is undecided (7)
48 Elevated light railroad in the US, or one above that (5)
50 Sea eagle found in Alderney (4)



NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

Prizes

The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books — including The Times Reference Atlas of the World, Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus, and Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked "Cryptic" or "times2" and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1807, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ; or emailed to: jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with "Cryptic 1807" or "times2 1807" in the subject line, to arrive by September 10. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on September 12.

Thinking space

times2 clues

Across

1 Extremely cruel act (8)
5 Refuelling tanker (6)
9 Having uncovered breasts (7)
14 Chance (11)
15 Formal request; sustained effort (11)
16 Form of quartz used as a gemstone (5)
17 Plant's main underground part (7)
18 Expert in financial management (9)
19 Culinary herb (7)
20 Delay, time wasting (15)
22 Administrative area in Japan (10)
23 Tried and tested (6)
25 Thin metal sheet (4)
28 Cultured classes (*S, not Z*) (14)
30 Salaried worker (8)
32 Design and build; skilfully bring about (8)
34 Up for auction (5,3,6)
37 Soy bean curd (4)
38 Structural rules for language (6)
39 Treater of dirty clothing (3-7)
43 Mutual reliance (15)
45 Swedish city (7)
47 Rotating barrier (9)
49 Stretchy (7)
51 Sound like a steam engine (5)
52 Type of missile or fighter (11)
53 Showing inventiveness (11)
54 Fast-moving stream (7)
55 English county (6)
56 Troubled, nervous (8)

Down

1 Green-fleshed fruit (7)
2 Substitute (11)
3 Establish correspondence between (9)
4 Honest and reliable quality (15)
6 Figure of speech (8)
7 Disorganised, lacking in concentration (14)
8 Restraining personal freedom (10)
9 Capital of Libya (7)
10 Greek philosopher (5)
11 Suitability, fitness (11)
12 Short composition for one or two players (8)
13 Weak and cowardly person (4)
20 Package (6)
21 Plant grown for fodder (7)
22 Shrub used for hedging (6)
24 Processing of large amounts of data (6,9)
26 Leader of a cause or party (8-6)
27 Extreme fear (6)
29 Pleasurable inactivity (7)
31 Go without food (6)
33 Author producing another's book (5,6)
35 Painter of small portraits (11)
36 Not beaten (10)
40 Looking or waiting for something (9)
41 Area of a town or country (8)
42 Tending to intrude (8)
44 Respected, distinguished (7)
46 Liverpool FC stadium (7)
48 Sudden large increase (5)
50 Urban rail vehicle (4)

One question — four hints
How many will you need?
Try Quizle here or at thetimes.com/quizle

first night

proms

Oslo Philharmonic/ Grazinyte-Tyla

Royal Albert Hall, London

★★★★☆

The Oslo Philharmonic is looking for a new chief conductor, after the wunderkind Klaus Makela hung up his baton in May. For its Prom, Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla did the honours, and her rapport with the orchestra was strong and her programme an invitation to listen with fresh ears. Place your bets now.

It began with the burbles, chirrups and twitters of a forest waking up in Symphonic Poem No 1, *Forest Morning*. This charming soundscape was by a name new to the Proms, Oyvind Torvund. It wasn't so much his fun mimicry of the natural world that proved fascinating, but how he sought out and incorporated its oddly electronic sounds and patterns. We had another taste of that right at the end of the Prom, in a newly orchestrated encore, *Starry Night*, in which Torvund's blooping sounds flew round the top of the Albert Hall as if they were being emitted by the ceiling mushrooms.

Theatricality of a different sort was on offer in Stravinsky's Violin Concerto, a work that remained aloof despite the violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja's best efforts to bend it to her will. She acted rather than sang through her violin, her edgy tone meaning it wasn't always a comfortable listen. I'm not sure she wanted it to be.

There was plenty of beautiful sound, however, in an entrancing performance of excerpts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, a reminder that there's much wonderful music in the ballet beyond the swaggering theme everyone knows from *The Apprentice*. "The Montagues and the Capulets" sounded thrillingly vital — all menace and drama — as played by the Oslo Philharmonic, yet overall it was the lyrical, rapturous, tender playing that made this performance special. Grazinyte-Tyla found the heart of Shakespeare's tragedy, from the ardent strings in the Balcony Scene to the intensity of Juliet's final dying moments.

Rebecca Franks

Available on BBC Sounds

CHRIS HARDY

Jennifer Stahl, as Pandora, led the first night cast at the Edinburgh International Festival

A sensory rollercoaster

It's the sheer spectacle that makes San Francisco Ballet's ambitious AI-inspired production worth the visit, writes Debra Craine

dance

Mere Mortals

Edinburgh Playhouse (70min)

★★★★☆

A year after taking over as the artistic director of San Francisco Ballet, Tamara Rojo made her mark with this ambitious and startling commission. *Mere Mortals*, which had its world premiere in 2024 and has just received its European premiere at the Edinburgh International Festival (before moving on to London), brings together three powerful elements to reimagine the myth of Pandora for the age of AI.

There's bustling, pulsating choreography from the Canadian choreographer Aszure Barton, the language as spiky as it is graceful. There are dazzling computer visuals from the Barcelona-based Hamill Industries and an alluring score from the British electronics artist Sam Shepherd, known professionally as Floating Points. Coming together in the cavern-like space of the Edinburgh Playhouse, with more than 40 dancers on stage, massive LED screens at the back and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (joined by Shepherd) in the pit, it declares itself first and foremost as a spectacle.

According to the ancient Greek myth, Pandora was the first human woman. Her crime? To unleash evil and suffering into the world. In Barton's 21st-century vision, the dark negative forces that emerge from Pandora's box are embodied by artificial intelligence. But anyone looking to follow the narrative of her cautionary tale will find it more implicit than explicit. The thematic concept is opaque, and although there are named characters, you would be hard pressed to identify them at first glance (the flimsy EIF programme won't help you here), especially the one called Hope who opens the ballet in a fog of dry ice.

So, not a satisfying dramatic whole then — the ending disappoints too —

> **"It's like an army of computer chips marching us to our doom**

but certainly a satisfying sensory extravaganza. The sight of so many dancers (enrobed in long black costumes that enhance their anonymity) in thrilling regimentation feels like an enemy army of computer chips marching us to our doom. The score, which combines orchestral breadth with electronic colours, wraps the ballet in a fantasy of aural excitement. The immersive digital artwork evokes images of Promethean fire and cataclysmic storm clouds (a reference to climate change or atomic bomb explosions?)

Leading the first cast in Edinburgh as Pandora was Jennifer Stahl, who threw body and soul into her sleek contortions and sensuously articulated performance, especially in the long romantic intertwining of her pas de deux with Harrison James's Epimetheus (the brother of Prometheus).

Joseph Walsh lurked menacingly as Prometheus (once I figured out who he was), while Wei Wang danced up a storm as Hope. The San Francisco Ballet ensemble were nothing less than heroic.

Sadler's Wells, London, Sep 9-12

classical

Berlin Philharmonic/ Petrenko

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

★★★★★

There have been many excellent concerts at this year's Edinburgh International Festival. But it wasn't exactly unpredictable that the Berlin Philharmonic and Kirill Petrenko would appear on the final weekend (the orchestra's first visit to the festival for 20 years) and simply blow away the memory of pretty well everything that went before.

Not so much, perhaps, with Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. That was beautifully played, especially by those dark, lustrous lower strings, revelling in the countermelodies rising through the piece like regrets that cannot be repressed. But I don't think the Berliners are quite in their element doing English wistfulness and understatement. And sometimes Petrenko slightly misjudged balances, so that passages became sumptuous textures with no clearly delineated foreground.

Conductor Kirill Petrenko "unleashed power, passion and precision"

Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 4 was a different matter. Samuel Goldwyn's advice to young film-makers — "start with an earthquake and work up to a climax" — came to mind as Petrenko unleashed power, passion and precision in the scorching outer movements, contrasted with extraordinarily cultured and lyrical playing in the second movement (the principal oboist floating an exquisite solo that seemed to go on for minutes before he took a second breath) and needle-sharp rapport as well as rapier wit in the quickfire instrumental exchanges of the third.

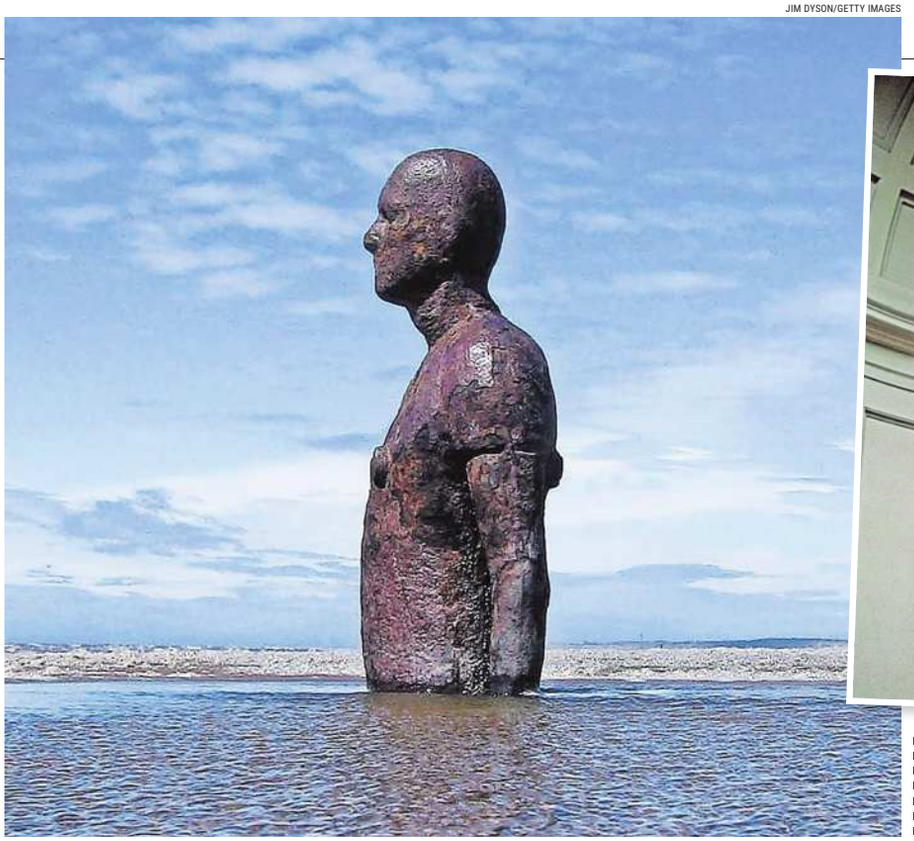
What a remarkably self-regenerating bunch the Berliners are. Many of the faces have changed even since Simon Rattle's day, yet the spirit, daring and overwhelming virtuosity of the orchestra is, if anything, even more impressive under Petrenko's deceptively unfussy direction. There are no gimmicks in his interpretations, no exaggerations for effect. Yet I have never heard this symphony delivered with such an emotional clout. Catch it on Radio 3 when the Berliners take it to the Proms on September 2.

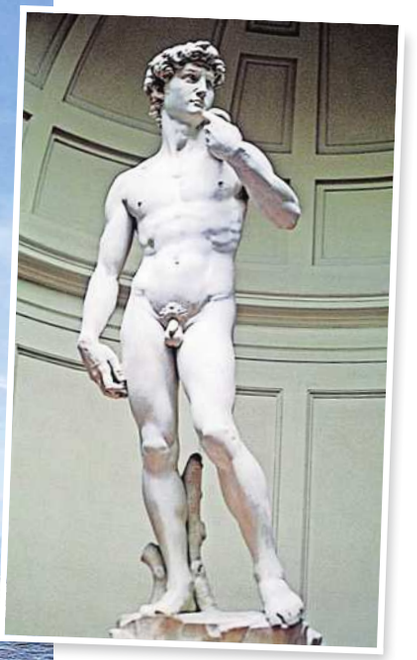
It was very different in the Usher Hall the previous evening, when the Colin Currie Group — steel-fingered instrumentalists powering through minimalist classics under an ace percussionist — presented a Steve Reich programme. There will doubtless be many concerts celebrating the composer's 90th birthday in October, but this one culminated in a world premiere, the ink still drying. It's titled *In All Your Ways*, which keen biblical students will recognise as an allusion to the Book of Proverbs ("in all your ways acknowledge him"), information you wouldn't have gleaned from reading the EIF's sketchy printed programme.

Compared with the works played earlier (such ever-evolving complexities as the *Double Sextet* and the Radiohead-inspired *Radio Rewrite*), the new piece is far sweeter in harmonies (lots of parallel chords floating over long bass notes) and genial in mood, with serene counterpoints morphing into outright ecstasy. Entering his tenth decade, Reich clearly still has plenty to say.

Richard Morrison

JIM DYSON/GETTY IMAGES





One of the 100 cast-iron figures in Antony Gormley's Another Place on Crosby Beach near Liverpool. Right: Michelangelo's David. Below: the 40,000-year-old Lion Man, carved from a mammoth tusk

What a carve-up! The incredible story of sculpture

Millions want a selfie with Michelangelo's David — but it's just one of the astonishing works made during 40,000 years of human history, says Jo Baring

Wherever humans have settled, we have told stories. Stories of beast and bird, man and gods, as we seek to understand the universe and our place within it. Although we can no longer hear those tales, there is something left that, like the legend of a map, gives us a sense of their imaginative terrain. This is sculpture.

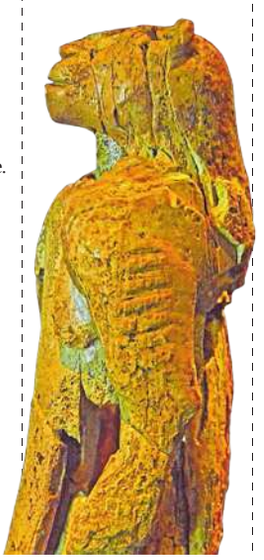
The earliest known sculpture is the *Lion Man*, or *Löwenmensch*. Carved about 40,000 years ago from a mammoth tusk, it shows the head of a cave lion on a partly human body. Using a flint tool, someone shaped the surface of the tusk with care. We see loosely posed legs twitching with energy, like those of a sprinter waiting for the starting gun. It was found in a cave in the Swabian Jura mountain range of Germany. The oldest sculpture of a fully human form, carved at least 35,000 years ago, is the *Venus of Hohle Fels*. Weighty breasts fold over a squashy, tactile torso, the fleshiness of her thighs conveyed in static material.

There is an array of suggestions as to why these early carvings were made and what they meant to our ancestors. But we do know one thing: that these were made when mammoths still roamed the Earth, before we could write, before we could inscribe and record our lives, speaks to the importance of sculpture to humans.

I have been a curator and art historian, working with sculpture and sculptors, for more than 25 years. Over this time I realised that the importance of sculpture has been overlooked. Although many of us visit sculpture parks every year, or crowd the Accademia for a selfie with *David*, there is a belief that sculpture is unable to convey emotion as easily as a painting, where brushstrokes can be violent gasps on canvas and where impressions of dappling suns renew our vision. But wherever we look in our history we find sculpture. In the six cradles of civilisation where human life was birthed, archaeologists have discovered sculpture, ranging from giant monoliths to limestone carvings inlaid with shell and lapis lazuli.

Our legends are littered with tales of forges, elemental worlds of air, fire and water, where materials shapeshift and come to life. This suggests that we have long sensed the magic of sculpture, knowing that in the humblest of materials we find the potential for a transformation as astounding as alchemy. Greek mythology gives us the god Hephaestus, within whose smithy the first human being, Pandora, was made. Some versions of the story site his workshop in the liquid bowels of a volcano, giving us a sense of the molten heat with which he works, every strike of his hammer and anvil clanging through the air like a rhythmic heartbeat, conjuring Pandora into life. In many of our origin stories we tell of how we are sculpted into being, shaped by clay drawn from the very fabric of the Earth.

For many sculptures it is their surroundings that matter so much to any meaning we might find. Think of Antony Gormley's *Another Place* (1997), 100 cast-iron figures set across Crosby Beach in Merseyside.



Would it be the same in the enclosed halls of a gallery? When I visited it was a late afternoon at the end of May, but it felt like the dark slate of a British February. Heavy clouds seemed about to fall from above and the wind brought sand flying towards my face like splinters of glass. A busy shipping channel connecting the River Mersey to the Irish Sea runs parallel to Crosby Beach, and despite the flatness of the day I could see the outlines of colossal containers moving slowly along the horizon. It is no romantic idyll, and that is what attracted Gormley to site his work there.

I have also flown to Utah just after a snowstorm to find a sculpture on the shores of the Great Salt Lake. In that expansive landscape of earth and sky where time hums all round, I drove past the Wasatch, the westernmost range of the Rocky Mountains in Utah, well known for the dinosaur bones discovered near by. Here a flat horizontal line cut along the surface of the mountains like the tidemark left by soapy water in a bath. This was visible even with a heavy layer of snow and is the ancient shoreline of Lake Bonneville, formed about 30,000 years ago. Most of what is now western Utah would have been covered by its waters. I was there to see the American artist Robert Smithson's sculpture *Spiral Jetty* (1970), made from

> **Early carvings were made when mammoths still roamed the Earth**

black basalt and left out in the open for us to find, like the coiled shell of an ammonite fossil.

As I walked along *Spiral Jetty*, I thought about the temporal aspect of sculpture. Just as sculpture exists beyond our short lives, it also survives where we cannot. In 1972 a diver disturbed the sleep of two bronze figures whose home had been the seabed off the coast of Riace in Calabria, Italy, for more than 2,000 years. They are now known as the *Riace Bronzes* and most experts believe they are rare examples of full-body bronzes made by the ancient Greeks about 460-450BC. As they were brought up, like Neptune rising from the deep, their beards curled in bronze, we saw our fellow man. There's something astounding at coming face to face with a human head sculpted thousands of years ago, a head that has lain undisturbed in the darkest of the sea's fathoms. Our shared humanity glistens across millennia.

Sculpture acts as a connecting thread through time. When I interviewed Bharti Kher about her work *Ancestor* (2022), which stood in Manhattan, New York, she told me of her connection to the sculpture of the ancient Harappan civilisation. Also known as the Indus civilisation, this was the earliest society to develop in south Asia and famous for its remarkable urban planning. Between 3,300-1,300BC, it extended over most of modern-day Pakistan and northwest India, with settlements growing along the fertile banks of the River Indus and its tributaries. I found some tiny Harappan figurines as part of my research. These silent repositories of past lives are just the right size to hold in your hand. Elaborate headdresses are carefully built up, and tiny dots of terracotta are added to breasts to create dainty nipples. Animal forms such as bulls are decorated with colours now faded, and elephant tusks curve for ever in clay.

I have long believed there is something unknowable about sculpture. Today there is not much space for that which we can sense and feel but for which we have few words, but for 40,000 years we have been carving and moulding, shaping and chiselling, feeling our way and sensing our place in the world.

***Totem* by Jo Baring (Canongate £25). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on online orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members**

times2

Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles
Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai easy

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

5		6				1	3	
		4		1		7	8	
				6	4			
	4				6			1
			3	5	8			
7			1				9	
			6	3				
	3	1		9				
	9	5				3		

3		7				1	2	9
6				3		4		
2			7	9				
	7		9			3		
	4		6		7		1	
		8			4		5	
			8	1				3
9		4	6				7	
5						2		1

				8	3			
				1	9			
			1					
			9					
				5	8	2		
					3			

3		9				1		7
4			3				4	2
2			1	5				
	1		5			3		
	9		2				4	
		5			1		1	
			6	3				9
		7		1				3
5	3	6				1		8

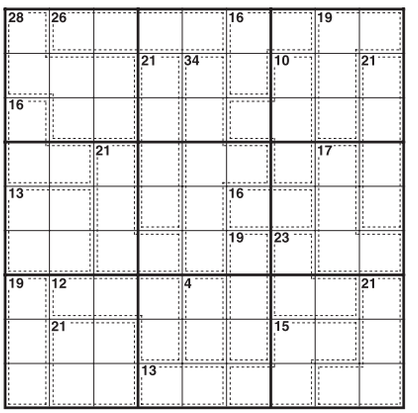
		9				7		
			4	1		2		
	1				3			4
	9		7	9	6			
6			5				8	
		9	8					
	3	4		6		5		
	2	1				6		8

Sudoku super fiendish

	8	9			3		4	
2		5	6					1
			4	3			8	6
				9	8		5	
			1	7			9	4
4		1	8					9
	5	7			2		6	

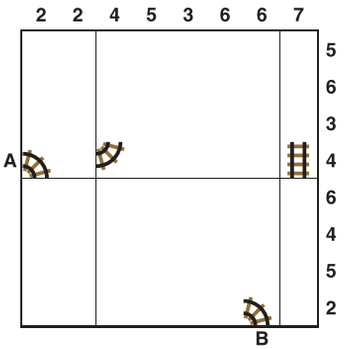
Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



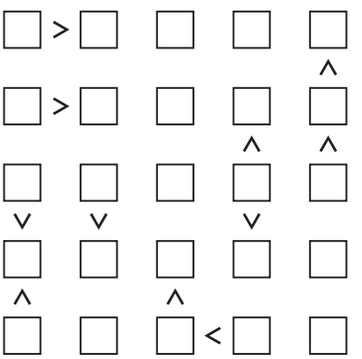
Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

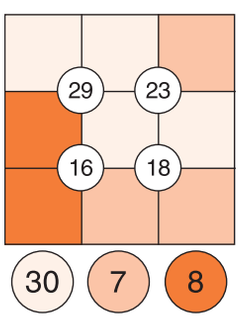


Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.



Sakuro



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Play Mini Sudoku every day Monday-Sunday online at thetimes.com and on Live app

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

5	16	6	7	16	11	15 M	14	■	26	19	20	26
25	■	17	■	3	■	11	■	6	■	8	■	9
6	17	17	26	25	■	25	26	2	8	22	8	12
6	■	4	■	23	■	22	■	11	■	1	■	8
15	6 O	11	12	■	22	4	3	12	19	6	7	24
■	■	24	■	19	■	21	■	8	■	■	■	1
10	3	19	19	26	25	■	1	6	5 B	11	16	12
11	■	■	■	2	■	19	■	24	■	8	■	■
1	11	22	12	11	7	11	21	■	1	25	6	7
23	■	8	■	16	■	4	■	12	■	22	■	6
14	25	26	18	3	26	16	■	6	12	4	26	25
6	■	20	■	26	■	8	■	17	■	8	■	16
12	26	26	15	■	20	11	13	3	15	14	26	19

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5 B	6 O	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 M	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Mini Sudoku

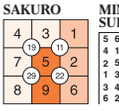
Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

6					
				6	2
		3		1	
				5	
	4	1	5		6
	6			4	

Thursday's solutions

SAKURO



MINI SUDOKU

5	6	3	1	4	2
4	1	2	5	6	3
2	5	6	3	1	4
1	3	4	2	5	6
3	4	1	6	2	5
6	2	5	4	3	1

SAMURAI

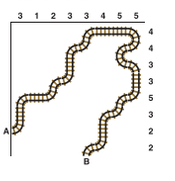
2	7	9	3	5	1	4	8	6
3	8	1	6	7	4	5	9	2
6	5	4	9	8	2	7	1	3
8	1	6	5	4	7	2	3	9
5	3	7	2	1	9	6	4	8
9	4	2	8	6	3	1	7	5
1	6	3	7	9	5	8	2	4
7	9	5	4	2	8	3	6	1
4	2	8	1	3	6	9	5	7

3	8	5	2	6	7	9	4	1
9	7	1	3	4	8	5	2	6
4	6	2	5	1	9	8	7	3
6	9	8	4	3	5	2	1	7
2	1	7	9	8	6	3	5	4
5	4	3	1	7	2	6	8	9
5	9	7	1	3	6	8	5	4
1	3	4	7	5	8	2	6	9
8	2	6	9	4	3	5	1	7

2	6	8	9	3	1	4	7	5
5	3	7	6	2	4	1	8	9
1	4	9	5	7	8	2	3	6
4	2	6	3	9	5	7	1	8
7	8	5	1	6	2	9	4	3
3	9	1	8	4	7	5	6	2
8	7	3	2	1	9	6	5	4
6	1	2	4	5	3	8	9	7
9	5	4	7	8	6	3	2	1

4	7	5	3	6	9	1	2	8
3	6	9	2	8	1	4	5	7
8	2	1	4	7	5	6	9	3
1	3	4	8	5	2	7	6	9
2	9	6	7	1	3	8	4	5
7	5	8	6	9	4	3	1	2
6	8	7	9	2	6	5	3	4
5	4	3	1	4	8	9	7	6
9	1	2	5	3	7	2	8	1

TRAIN TRACKS



FUTOSHIKI

3	<	5	1	< 2 < 4
5	3	4	1	2
2	1	< 3 < 4 <		5
4	2	5	3	1
1	4	> 2	5	3

SUDOKU

8	9	3	5	2	7	6	1	4
1	7	4	6	9	8	2	5	3
5	2	6	3	1	4	8	7	9
3	6	5	4	7	9	1	8	2
2	1	7	8	5	3	4	9	6
9	4	8	1	6	2	5	3	7
4	3	1	7	8	6	9	2	5
6	5	2	9	3	1	7	4	8
7	8	9	2	4	5	3	6	1

KILLER

3	1	4	7	5	2	8	9	6
5	9	7	8	1	6	3	4	2
8	2	6	9	4	3	5	1	7
7	4	8	6	9	1	2	5	3
1	6	5	2	3	8	4	7	9
2	3	9	4	7	5	6	8	1
6	7	1	5	2	4	9	3	8
9	5	2	3	8	7	1	6	4
4	8	3	1	6	9	7	2	5

CODEWORD

G	I	M	M	I	C	K	■	C	H	A	I	R
N	■	U	■	N	■	I	■	A	■	Q	■	O
A	S	S	E	T	■	M	O	L	L	U	S	C
W	■	I	■	I	■	O	■	F	■	A	■	K
I	N	C	O	M	I	N	G	■	S	T	A	Y
N	■	■	■	A	■	O	■	C	■	I	■	■
G	R	O	U	C	H	■	P	O	N	C	H	O
■	■	U	■	Y	■	R	■	N	■	■	■	B
A	R	T	Y	■	S	E	L	F	L	E	S	S
P	■	P	■	Z	■	S	■	E	■	B	■	E
P	R	O	J	E	C	T	■	T	U	B	E	R
L	■	S	■	A	■	E	■	T	■	E	■	V
E	X	T	O	L	■	D	W	I	N	D	L	E

DCI Silva still leaves me colder than Svalbard

Carol Midgley
TV review

Vigil
BBC1
★★☆☆☆

Am I the only one who finds DCI Amy Silva a drag? She strikes me as the sort of snippy person you would hide behind a pillar to avoid at the office Christmas party because she'd ask if you had read her round-robin email about leaving dirty mugs in the sink.

Anyway, she's back in *Vigil*, the series that embraces "dour" like a long-lost friend. It began as a claustrophobic submarine thriller back in 2021, series two was about military attack drones and now here we are in the high Arctic at a bleak, strip-lit science institute in Svalbard — though even Svalbard would struggle to compete with Silva's iciness. And this is in her contented phase now that she is in domestic bliss with her partner, DI Kirsten Longacre, and their two children.

Silva (Suranne Jones) looks a bit miffed when it is not her but Longacre (Rose Leslie) who is chosen by the intelligence services to fly to the Arctic and investigate the murder of an undercover special forces officer, apparently shot dead by Russian soldiers — or was he?

Military personnel aren't supposed to be on Svalbard and the dead man was posing as a civilian. So it may look suspicious if someone as "high profile" as Silva went to deal with it. And let's face it, there are enough cold fish in the Arctic as it is. Though it won't be long before she's pulling on her woolly jumper and boarding a plane.

There is a full 14-minute introduction before the opening credits roll, showing special forces trying to extract a Chinese scientist, and the ensuing shootout between the Brits and some Russians with comedy accents. But all isn't as it seems. The dead man may have been killed in the science institute and his body moved. Is someone trying to provoke Nato into a confrontation with Russia?

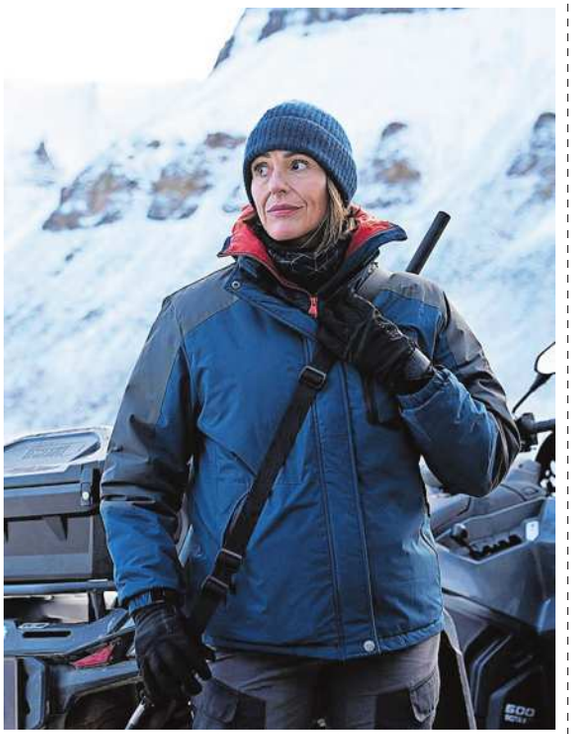
This is a dry, knotty, complex story encompassing climate activism, the energy crisis, rare seabed minerals, and scientists who seem strangely furtive and wear unattractive clothes.

There is no glamour here but I will say this for *Vigil*: the dialogue is decent. Such as when a minister says that a climate change activist "won't be happy until we're in mud huts knitting clothes from our own hair". I did laugh at that.

My problem is the same as it was for the previous two series. Though Jones is a very good actress (she was fabulous in *Gentleman Jack*), Silva isn't charismatic, strong or likeable enough to be the main character and carry the lead role. She has a needlessly brusque way of speaking to people that would be fine if she made up for it in other ways, but she doesn't. She makes me a) frequently wonder if she has a stick up her backside and b) not care when she is nearly killed (again), this time in a lab explosion back in Glasgow. You knew it was a bad blast when it slightly ruffled her bobbed hair. Oh, and killed the professor who had just flown back from Svalbard. Unfortunate.

There are positives: Leslie is convincing and very watchable as Longacre, there is a noncaricatured Russian detective who seems quite nice, and this storyline is more credible than the submarine one, which became frankly ridiculous. But if you're asking me whether I'm dying to know what happens next, I'm afraid the answer would be no.

MARK MAINZ/BBC



Vigil's third series takes Suranne Jones's DCI to the high Arctic

Radio choice

BBC Proms
Radio 3, 7pm

***Enchanted — Alan Menken's Music for Disney*, with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and the conductor Sarah Hicks, plus special guests and performers from the National Youth Music Theatre, features work by the hugely popular composer, *above*, who is one of 22 competitive Egots in the world — someone who has won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony award. Menken's work tonight includes music from *The Little Mermaid*, the first Disney film that he scored, as well as *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Pocahontas*, and more recent films including *Enchanted* and *Tangled*.**
Clair Woodward

Times Radio

Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Rosie Wright and Guto Harri **10.00** Hugo Rifkind **1.00pm** Jo Coburn **4.00** John Pienaar **7.00** Kait Borsay **10.00** Cindy Yu **1.00am** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2

FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am OJ Borg **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Tony Blackburn's Sounds of Soul **3.00pm** Mark Goodier's Most Played — The Billion Streamers **6.00** Lewis Capaldi's Ultimate Scottish Playlist **7.00** Edith Bowman **9.00** The Blues Show with Shaun Keaveny **10.00** The Good Groove with Melvin Odoom **12.00** Connor Phillips **2.30am** One Hit Wonders **3.00** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay (r) **4.00** Jason Mohammad

Radio 3

FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast
9.30 Radio 3's Proms Marathon Monday
Ian Skelly presents the first programme in a day of highlights from this year's Proms. Omer Meir Wellber conducts the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen. Haydn (Symphony No 44 in E minor, Trauer); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor); and Schumann (Symphony No 4 in D minor — rev. version, 1851)
11.00 Radio 3's Proms Marathon Monday
A Prom from August 5 with Kahchun Wong conducting the Hallé. Ravel orch. Colin Matthews (*La vallée des cloches*); Nadia Boulanger (Fantasy for piano and orchestra); and Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor)
1.00pm Radio 3's Proms Marathon Monday
Linton Stephens presents another chance to hear a Prom from July 27 with Edward Gardner conducting the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Canteloube (*Songs of the Auvergne*); and Richard Strauss (*An Alpine Symphony*)
2.15 Radio 3's Proms Marathon Monday
Another chance to hear a concert at the Royal Albert Hall from August 16 as Vasily Petrenko conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Webern (*Passacaglia*); Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor); and Walton (Symphony No. 2)
3.45 Radio 3's Proms Marathon Monday
Another chance to hear a concert from July 25 in Sunderland as the violinist Maria Włoszczowska directs the Royal Northern Sinfonia. Bacewicz (*Divertimento*); Mendelssohn (Concerto for Violin, Piano and Strings); and Mozart (Symphony No 39)
5.15 Radio 3's Proms Marathon Monday
Petroc Trelawny presents another chance to hear a concert at the Royal Albert Hall from August 7 as Nil Venditti conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra & Chorus. Respighi (*Church Windows*); and Rossini (*Stabat Mater*)
7.00 Choice Live BBC Proms 2026
Katie Derham presents live from the Royal Albert Hall as Sarah Hicks conducts the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert featuring Alan Menken's music for Disney films
9.30 Classical Mixtape
10.00 Night Tracks (r)
11.30 'Round Midnight
12.30am Through the Night

Radio 4

FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz

5.00am News Summary
5.04 Last Word (r)
5.34 Shipping Forecast
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
6.00 Today
9.00 The Great Crime Mystery
Perceptions of the crime rate (3/3)
9.30 How Did We Get Here: No World Order (6/6)
10.00 Woman's Hour
11.00 All Kinds of Minds (2/3)
11.45 You Do Not Have to Say Anything (1/10) (r)
12.04pm You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 A 9/11 Story
Personal stories (1/10)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Fags, Mags and Bags (r)
2.45 New Storytellers (3/5) (r)
3.00 Great Lives (4/9)
3.30 You're Dead to Me (10/14) (r)
4.00 Dictators' Survival Guide (r)
4.30 Soul Music (3/5) (r)
5.00 PM
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Unspeakable
Creating a new dictionary (1/6)
7.00 The Archers
Alan loses his temper
7.15 Front Row (r)
8.00 The Briefing Room (9/9) (r)
8.30 BBC Inside Science (r)
9.00 The Great Crime Mystery (r)
9.30 How Did We Get Here: No World Order (6/6) (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Working Mother
By Agnes Owens (1/5)
11.00 There's Something I Need to Tell You
By John Scott Dryden and Misha Kawnel (2/5) (r)
11.30 Everything Is Fake and Nobody Cares (6/6) (r)
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am You Do Not Have to Say Anything (1/10) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra

Digital only

8.00am 55 and Over **8.30** Flush **8.45** The Offing **9.00** Just a Minute **9.30** The Secret History of a School **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Sounds Natural **10.30** Down and Out Debaters **11.00** Five Red Herrings **11.30** Kill the Pharaoh! **12.00** The Adventures of John and Tony **12.30pm** Dad's Army **1.00** 55 and Over **1.30** Flush **1.45** The Offing **2.00** Quote — Unquote **2.30** Trevor's World of Sport **3.00** To Sir with Love **4.00** Sounds Natural **4.30** Down and Out Debaters **5.00** Five Red Herrings **5.30** Kill the Pharaoh! **6.00** Adventures of John and Tony **6.30** Dad's Army **7.00** 55 and Over **7.30** Flush **7.45** The Offing **8.00** Quote — Unquote **8.30** Trevor's World of Sport **9.00** To Sir with Love **10.00** Comedy Club: Just a Minute **10.30** Truly, Madly, Bletchley **10.45** Quando, Quando, Quando **11.00** The People Have Spoken **11.30** The In Crowd

Radio 5 Live

MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Nick Watt **4.00** Drive **7.00** The Monday Night Club **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT

MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Sports Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast with Jeff Stelling **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** Drive **7.00** Live Kick Off: Aston Villa v Arsenal (Kick-off **8.00**) **10.00** The Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time with Paul Ross

Talk

Digital only

6.00am Jeremy Kyle **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **7.00** Peter Cardwell **10.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music

Digital only

5.00am Amy Lamé **7.00** Nemone **10.00** Lauren Laverne **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Zakia Sewell's Teatime Session **7.00** New Music Fix Daily **9.00** Riley & Coe **11.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence **12.00** Pet Shop Boys at the BBC **1.00am** Pet Shop Boys Live. Highlights **2.00** Pet Shop Boys, Documentary **4.00** Pet Shop Boys Playlist

Virgin Radio

Digital only

6.00am Steve Denyer **10.00** Goldierocks **2.00pm** Edward Adoo **6.00** Stu Elmore **10.00** Jen Thomas **2.00am** James Merritt

Classic FM

FM: 100-102 MHz

6.30am Gareth Malone **9.00** The Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** The Movie Music Hall of Fame with Aled Jones **1.00pm** The Movie Music Hall of Fame with Margherita Taylor **4.00** The Movie Music Hall of Fame with Jonathan Ross **7.00** Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

television

PICKS OF THE DAY

Tea with Judi Dench
Sky Arts/Now, 9pm

After last year's special in which Kenneth Branagh visited Judi Dench, the door to her Surrey home now opens to another great friend, Ian McKellen, who comes round for tea bearing a plant. They range across their careers, from the role the Birmingham Fire Brigade played in the RSC's 1976 production of *Macbeth* to the fame that comes with appearing in famous franchises such as James Bond. McKellen also discusses coming out, his parents and his protest against Section 28, while Dench's parrot Sweetie adds commentary. The topic of death is off the table at Dench's insistence, but otherwise this is an encounter full of life as their candid and insightful conversation moves from stage fright and the insecurities of acting to the importance of never taking success or failure too seriously.
Victoria Segal

Judi Dench and Ian McKellen

Fred's Ultimate Hotels
Channel 4, 8pm

Fred Sirieix embarks on his own jolly Channel 4 holiday hot on the heels of Richard E Grant's odyssey. His four-part adventure, though, is more like a one-man version of BBC2's *Amazing Hotels*. Rebranded as a "hospitality expert", the *First Dates* maître d' inspects a string of pricey retreats (in keeping with the channel's obsession with deluxe hotels and properties), starting with the Royal Mansour in Marrakesh, Morocco. Like his BBC counterparts, Sirieix puts in a shift helping out behind the scenes at the establishment, but in his case it's as general manager for a day rather than in a humbler role. He's then well placed to assess it according to his "Five Fs" criteria (please don't make up your own): first impressions, facilities, flawless service, fine details and, er, feeling. Later episodes feature five-star stays in South Africa, Singapore and the French Alps.
John Dugdale

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast
9.30 Morning Live
10.45 Rip Off Britain: Rogues
11.30 Homes Under the Hammer (r) (AD)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt (AD)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
1.20 BBC Regional News; Weather
1.30 Money for Nothing. A woodworking expert takes on a smashed-up organ
2.15 The Travelling Auctioneers. A retiring farmer sets out to empty his whole farm (r)
2.45 Escape to the Country. Seeking a home in County Down and County Antrim (r)
3.45 Garden Rescue. Chris Hull and Lee Burkhill travel to Coventry to help a family
4.30 The Answer Run. Quiz show (r)
5.15 Pointless. Alexander Armstrong hosts
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.20 BBC Regional News; Weather
6.30 Celebrity Escape to the Country. Richie Anderson takes *Strictly Come Dancing* choreographer and dance professional Neil Jones in search of a property (r)

7.30 EastEnders Nicola gets a shock when the Hawkins arrive in Walford, and Priya wrestles with her guilt (AD)

8.00 The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Jennifer Reoch and JJ Chalmers introduce the Massed Pipes and Drums and an array of international talent in the 2026 tattoo with narration by Richard Rankin. *See picks of the day*

9.00 Vigil After the kidnap of a government minister, Amy starts connecting the dots between his policy and his abduction as she zeroes in on the kidnapper. Kirsten navigates international agendas in the Arctic in the hunt for a missing Chinese scientist (2/6) (AD)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.20 BBC Regional News and Weather
10.30 Have I Got News for You Quiz show with panellists Victoria Coren Mitchell, Chris McCausland and Janet Street-Porter (8/10) (r)

11.00 FILM: Four Weddings and a Funeral (15, 1994) A London man's misfortunes in love look set to change when he meets an American beauty. However, the prospect of a transatlantic relationship succeeding seems slim, so the pair go their separate ways — only for him to realise he is unable to get her out of his mind. Richard Curtis's romantic comedy starring Hugh Grant, Andie MacDowell, John Hannah, Charlotte Coleman, Kristin Scott Thomas, Simon Callow and James Fleet (AD)

1.00am-6.00 BBC News

BBC2

6.20am Beechgrove Garden (r)
6.50 Sign Zone: Celebrity MasterChef. The second week of heats (r) (AD, SL)
7.50 Match of the Day (r)
9.00 BBC News
1.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games. With former winners taking part (r)
1.30 The Edge. Game show (r)
2.15 Weatherman Walking. In Gwynedd (r)
2.45 Animal Park. The ankole cattle have to be screened for TB (r) (AD)
3.30 Serengeti III. An elephant finds a smart solution to quench everyone's thirst (r) (AD)
4.30 Vintage Antiques Roadshow. From Dyrham Park, near Bath (r)
5.15 Flog It! Experts Catherine Southon and David Fletcher are in Ushaw in Co Durham (r)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games. With Ken Bruce, Alice Roberts, Perri Shakes-Drayton and Kiell Smith-Bynoe (r)
6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo explores the woods and pasture of the Weald in south-east England (r) (AD)

7.00 Today at the Test England v Pakistan. Action from the fifth and final day of the second Test in the three-match series, held at Lord's Cricket Ground in London

8.00 Only Connect Family trio the Creepy Crawleys take on former work colleagues the Risk Takers

8.30 University Challenge Amol Rajan hosts the academic quiz as Birmingham takes on Leicester

9.00 Surviving 9/11 The stories of 13 people caught up in the events of September 11, 2001, featuring accounts of the two-hour period when terrorists attacked the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. The film examines what was it was like for them to be caught in an event they were not able to fully comprehend at the time and which they were still working through years later (r) (AD)

10.30 FILM: The Godfather Part II (18, 1974) Mafia don Michael Corleone sets out to clinch a make-or-break deal with an ageing gangster — but his plans are blown apart by a traitor within the family. Michael's story is intercut with flashback sequences chronicling the early life of his father Vito as he makes the shift from immigrant grocery-store clerk to Mob kingpin. Francis Ford Coppola's drama sequel with Al Pacino, Robert De Niro and Robert Duvall (AD)

1.40am Sign Zone: Countryfile Adam Henson meets a young beef and sheep farmer in the Yorkshire Dales, and discovers how the unpredictable conditions have a significant impact on his flock during winter (r) (SL) **2.35-3.35** Emergency 24/7. At Southmead Hospital, Bristol (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain
10.00 This Morning
1.45pm ITV News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team head to Aerospace Bristol, where the dealers land amazing deals under the wings of Concorde (r) (AD)
3.00 Lingo. A father and son, a competition fanatic and her husband, and a mother and daughter take part in the quiz (r)
4.00 Deal or No Deal. Stephen Mulhern hosts as a contestant tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order, taking on the infamous Banker for the chance to win a life-changing cash prize (r) (AD)
5.00 Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz show (r)
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.10 ITV News; Weather
6.30 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as Jayde Adams, Tony Cottee, Naughty Boy and The Vivienne pit their wits against one of the Chasers (r)

7.30 Millionaire Hot Seat New series. Jeremy Clarkson returns with the quiz as six more hopefuls compete for £1 million. *See picks of the day*

8.00 Emmerdale Serena is taken aback, DS Ramsden announces her plan and Gabby is unable to cope (AD)

8.30 Coronation Street Todd is rocked to learn of Celeste's death. Bernie and Kit wrestle with their discovery (AD)

9.00 Trigger Point Lana and her team spring into action after the previous attack with clues leading them to a boatyard, but the bombers stay one step ahead (2/6) (AD)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.20 FILM: Superman Returns (12, 2006) The Man of Steel returns to Earth after an absence of several years to find his lost love Lois Lane has moved on with her life. Meanwhile, arch-villain Lex Luthor is out of jail and about to wreak havoc on the world with technology stolen from Superman's home planet of Krypton. Comic-book adventure from *X-Men* director Bryan Singer starring Brandon Routh, Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth and Parker Posey (AD)

12.50am Shop on TV 3.00 The Staircase. Kathleen prepares for a Christmas to remember in 2001 (r) (AD) **4.05** Unwind with ITV **5.10** Dermot's Taste of Ireland. Dermot O'Leary sets off along the Causeway Coastal Route (r) (SL) **5.35-6.00** Gary Barlow's Food and Wine Tour: New Zealand (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.30am The King of Queens (r) (AD)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD)
9.10 Frasier (r) (AD)
11.10 Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back. A Mexican restaurant in Los Angeles (r) (AD)
12.05pm Find It, Fix It, Flog It. A repair and upcycling shop in need of help (r) (AD)
1.05 The Great House Giveaway. In Cramlington, Northumberland (r)
2.10 Countdown. With Zoe Lyons
3.00 A Place in the Sun. Laura Hamilton helps a couple seeking a home in the peace and quiet of inland Granada (r)
4.00 The Great B&B Challenge. It is the last week of the competition. After the final four get to see the prize B&B for the first time, the first couple move into it for 24 hours (r)
5.00 Château DIY. A woman makes a rotten discovery under her pool decking (r) (AD)
6.00 A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? New series. In Spain, a fire destroys a pair's B&B hopes, while in Italy, another pair race to finish their boutique B&B

7.00 Channel 4 News

7.30 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer look back at homes in Stoke and Newcastle (3/5) (r) (AD)

8.00 Fred's Ultimate Hotels New series. Fred Sirieix meets the people behind the world's most spectacular hotels. First, he heads to Marrakech to stay at the Royal Mansour — a hotel commissioned by the King of Morocco. *See picks of the day* (AD)

9.00 24 Hours in A&E A patient has significant burns to her leg after spilling a kettle of boiling water, while a 50-year-old is struggling to walk after injuring her toe. A 22-year-old woman is rushed to Queen's after collapsing while running (AD)

10.00 Love Cheats The case of a man who told his girlfriend his life had been a series of tragedies to earn her trust, before she learned she was the latest in a long line of victims (AD)

11.05 The Murder Detective Documentary telling the inside story of the seven-year-long mission to find out who murdered journalist Lyra McKee in Derry in 2019 and secure justice for her family (1/3) (r) (AD, SL)

12.05am The Murder Detective (r) (AD, SL) **1.55** Secret Lives of Gypsy Wives (r) (AD, SL) **2.50 FILM: Sick of Myself (15, 2023)** Drama starring Kristine Kujath Thorp. In Norwegian with subtitles **4.25** Kirstie's House of Craft (r) **4.40** Hollyoaks Omnibus (r) (AD, SL) **5.50-6.30** Countdown (r)

5

6.00am Milkshake!
9.00 Entertainment News on 5
9.15 Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster discusses the issues of the day
11.30 Storm & Alexis. Discussion presented by Storm Huntley and Alexis Conran
12.30pm Live Snooker: British Open 2026. Katie Shanahan presents coverage of the afternoon session on day one, held at the Centaur in Cheltenham, featuring first-round matches. With analysis from Stephen Hendry, Ken Doherty and Joe Perry
5.30 Motorhoming with Merton & Webster. Paul Merton and Suki Webster explore Snowdonia and pitch up at Lake Bala, where they sample some of the watersports available, starting with paddle boarding (r)
6.25 5 News with Dan Walker
6.30 Britain's Greatest Bridges. Rob Bell offers an insight into the history, design and building process of the Britannia Bridge, across the Menai Strait between the island of Anglesey and the mainland of Wales (r)

6.45 Live Snooker: British Open 2026 Katie Shanahan presents coverage of the evening session on day one, held at the Centaur in Cheltenham, featuring the concluding first-round matches. With analysis from Stephen Hendry, Ken Doherty, and Joe Perry

8.00 Street Cops: Catching the Yobs Officers try to track down youths linked to a machete incident, while officers respond to reports of a suspected drug-driver, leading to a tense confrontation (6/6)

9.00 Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law Investigators track a suspected serial fare evader, using travel data and CCTV to intercept him at Ilford Station. TfL bus inspectors tackle concession card misuse, including a passenger unable to prove eligibility for free travel

10.00 Police: Suspect No 1 Detectives face the task of identifying and capturing five masked men who broke into a Scunthorpe household and held the owners at knifepoint before stealing their car (4/5) (r)

11.05 Traffic Cops Officers deal with back-to-back accidents, involving a motorcyclist left with life-changing injuries after being hit by a truck while parked, and a lorry driver trapped in his cab (r)

12.05am Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (r) **1.30** Cruise TV (r) **2.30** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **3.20** Amazing Railway Adventures with Nick Knowles (r) (SL) **4.15** Jane McDonald's Yorkshire: No Place Like Home (r) (SL) **5.00** Entertainment News on 5 **5.15-6.00** Children's Shows

television

Millionaire Hot Seat
ITV1, 7.30pm

Fast, punchy, streamlined: as the Hundred is to cricket, so this speedy game show spin-off is to the more venerable *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* Jeremy Clarkson returns to test six more contestants against the clock as they aim for the ultimate £1 million prize, answering questions on biology, linguistics or nursery rhymes. There's no "phone a friend", no "ask the audience" — but there is the possibility of a pass for difficult questions to prevent the money being brutally whittled away by wrong answers. **VS**

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
BBC1, 8pm

The title of this year's military pageant is *A Call to Gather*, referring to the gatherings of Scottish clans. The assembled clans are Commonwealth or Nato countries, represented by men in uniform: the army or police bands on parade beneath Edinburgh Castle come from Britain, the US, Canada, Germany and New Zealand. Richard Rankin narrates, and the already stirring spectacle is further enhanced by visual effects, fireworks and an RAF flyover. **JD**

STREAMING CHOICE

Rectify
Tubi

Tubi is bulk-buying TV shows from Disney, AMC, Lionsgate, NBCUniversal, Sony and Warner Bros and sticking them on their free streaming channel with little fanfare. One of the best recent arrivals is this eerie, hallucinatory southern gothic tale in which the haunted-looking Aden Young plays Daniel Holden, released back into his community after serving 19 years on death row for the murder of his girlfriend. Cryptic, hypnotic and unsettling, it's a slow-burn show that has been waiting a decade for rediscovery. It might be a masterpiece. **Andrew Male**

FILM CHOICE

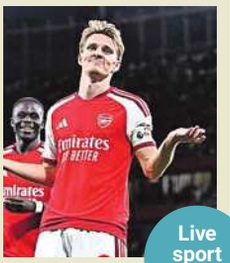
A Fistful of Dynamite (15, 1971)
ITV4, 9pm

Set during the 1913 Mexican Revolution, Sergio Leone's epic Zapata western stars James Coburn as John Mallory, an Irish explosives expert who teams up with greedy Mexican bandit Juan Miranda (Rod Steiger). They join forces to rob a bank, but the heist turns out to be a ruse that drags them into the brutal rebellion. (154min) **Joe Clay**

BBC4
7.00pm The Architecture the Railways Built. Visiting Snowdon's summit station (7/10) (AD) **7.45** The Flying Gardener. Kent **8.00** Archaeology: A Secret History. How archaeological discoveries in the 18th and 19th centuries overturned previous beliefs (2/3) **9.00** Mastermind: 1977. The second heat of the 1977 series of the quiz **9.30** Call My Bluff. From 1981 **10.00** Close to Vermeer. Behind the scenes of a Vermeer exhibition at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam **11.20** Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered. Scientific research aimed at finding out the truth about the boy pharaoh's death (AD) **12.20am** Nature and Us: A History Through Art. James Fox presents **1.20** The Flying Gardener **1.35** Close to Vermeer **2.50am-3.50** Archaeology: A Secret History (SL)

Sky Arts
6.00am Musical Masterpieces **7.00** Battle of the Irish Dancers **8.00** Artist of the Year: Masterclass (AD) **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Charles Laughton **12.00 FILM: The African Queen (PG, 1951)** Romantic adventure **2.00pm** André Rieu in Dublin **4.30** André Rieu: Live in Maastricht III **7.00 FILM: Six Minutes to Midnight (12, 2020)** Thriller (AD) **9.00** Tea with Judi Dench Featuring Sir Ian McKellen. An interview. *See picks of the day* (AD) **10.00** Discovering: Ian McKellen. Profile of the English actor (AD) **11.00** André Rieu: Live in Bahrain **12.30am** Kinky Boots **2.40** Art Traffickers: Treasures Stolen from the Tombs (AD) **3.40** National Trust: National Treasures (AD) **5.00am-6.00** Inside Art (AD)

More4
8.55am Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **10.00** Four in a Bed **12.40pm** Come Dine with Me **3.20** Four in a Bed **5.55** Car SOS. Double bill (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. A couple plan to build a new family home in rural East Sussex almost entirely out of concrete with construction involving cutting-edge technologies conceived in Switzerland (6/7) (AD) **9.00** PopMaster TV. Ken Bruce leads five new players through the fourth heat of the quiz show **10.00** 24 Hours in A&E. An 11-year-old is rushed to A&E after being hit by a motorbike (9/11) (AD) **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E. A 12-year-old girl needs emergency brain surgery after falling from a cliff near her home in Hastings (11/11) (AD) **12.10am** 999: On the Front Line **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.25am-3.50** The Perfect Pitch



Live sport today

Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard

Live Test Cricket: England v Pakistan
Sky Sports Main Event, 10.15am-6.30pm, Sky Sports Cricket, 10.15am-7pm
Coverage of the fifth and final day of the second Test in the three-match series, in London

Live US Open Tennis
Sky Sports +, Sky Sports Tennis, 3.30pm-12midnight
Day two of the Grand Slam in Flushing Meadows, New York

Live MNF: Aston Villa v Arsenal
Sky Sports Main Event, 6.30pm-10.00, Sky Sports Premier League, 6.30pm-11.00 (Kick-off **8.00**). The Premier League match at Villa Park

Live CPL: Trinbago Knight Riders v Jamaica Kingsmen
TNT Sports 2, 9.30pm-1.45am
Coverage of the T20 match at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad

Live MLB: Tampa Bay Rays v New York Mets
TNT Sports 1, 11.30pm-2.30am (Start-time **11.40**). Action from George M. Steinbrenner Field

Talking Pictures
6.00am The Vise (b/w) **6.35 FILM: Dublin Nightmare (PG, 1958)** (b/w) **7.50 FILM: Emergency (PG, 1962)** (b/w) **9.05** Coronation Fair Day **9.10 FILM: Home to Danger (PG, 1951)** (b/w) **10.30** Z Cars **11.35 FILM: The Embezzler (PG, 1954)** (b/w) **12.50pm** Look at Life **1.00** Richard the Lionheart (b/w) **1.35 FILM: The October Man (PG, 1947)** (b/w) **3.25** Scotland Yard **4.00** That's My Boy **4.35 FILM: Carrington VC (PG, 1954)** (b/w) **6.40** Pete Murray Takes You to Nottingham **7.00** The Footage Detectives **8.00** Maigret. A prostitute is killed **9.50 FILM: Borsalino and Co (18, 1974)** French gangster thriller **12.00 FILM: The Stranglers of Bombay (15, 1959)** (b/w) **1.40am FILM: Beat Girl (12, 1960)** (b/w) **3.25** Film Noir **4.25** The Veil (b/w) **5.00am-6.00** The Man from UNCLE (b/w)

Film4
11.00am Harvey (U, 1950) Comedy starring James Stewart (b/w) **1.10pm Midway (12, 2019)** Second World War drama starring Ed Skrein (AD) **3.50 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (PG, 1993)** Comedy sequel starring Whoopi Goldberg (AD) **6.00 Titanic (12, 1997)** Romantic drama starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio (AD) **9.45 Drive-Away Dolls (15, 2024)** Two women cross paths with a group of inept criminals. Action comedy starring Margaret Qualley and Geraldine Viswanathan **11.30 Carol (15, 2015)** Two women from different backgrounds fall in love in 1950s New York, but have to keep their relationship a secret. Romantic drama starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara (AD) **1.50am-4.00 Proxima (12, 2019)** Sci-fi drama starring Eva Green

BBC3
7.00pm Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. The animated inventor and his canine sidekick go to the moon. With the voice of Peter Sallis (AD) **7.25 FILM: Paddington 2 (PG, 2017)** The lovable bear's search for the perfect birthday present for his aunt leads to him being framed as a thief. Comedy adventure with the voice of Ben Whishaw (AD) **9.00** The Great British Sewing Bee. The challenges of music week (AD) **10.00** Silent Witness. Part one of two. Leo receives devastating family news from home (1/8) **11.00** Silent Witness. Part two of two. Leo tracks down the man who killed his wife and daughter (2/8) **12.00** Confessions of a Teenage Fraudster (AD) **2.15am** Football's New Generation (AD) **3.25am-3.55** Paddy & Molly: Show No Mersey

ITV2
6.00am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.15** Dinner Date (AD) **7.15** Celebrity Dinner Date (AD) **9.15** The Only Way Is Essex **10.15 FILM: The Croods (U, 2013)** Animated comedy (AD) **12.10pm** Deal or No Deal (AD) **1.10** Supermarket Sweep **2.10** Wheel of Fortune (AD) **3.10** The Only Way Is Essex **4.10 FILM: Kung Fu Panda (PG, 2008)** Animated comedy with the voice of Jack Black **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) **7.00** Wheel of Fortune (AD) **8.00** The 1% Club (AD) **9.00** The Only Way Is Essex. Jonnie has a tense run in with Freddie **10.00** Family Guy (AD) **11.35** American Dad! (AD) **12.35am** Bob's Burgers (AD) **1.30** Plebs (AD, SL) **1.55am-2.20** Deep Fake Neighbour Wars (SL)

ITV3
6.00am George and Mildred **7.05** Classic Emmerdale (AD) **8.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **9.10** Agatha Christie's Poirot (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.35pm** Midsomer Murders (AD) **3.35** Classic Emmerdale (AD) **4.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **5.50** Heartbeat. Rural police drama (AD) **8.00** Midsomer Murders. Musicians compete for a prestigious award at a music festival — but the winner is murdered and a violin is stolen (AD) **10.00** Lewis. The detective is faced with a difficult case when he investigates the discovery of a body in a well, and he also has to contend with a new boss (AD) **11.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot. The detective investigates when a man is found dead on a golf course (AD) **2.00am-2.30** George and Mildred

ITV4
6.00am Magnum, PI (AD, SL) **7.00** Minder (AD, SL) **8.05** Boon **9.10** Robin of Sherwood **10.20** The Professionals (AD) **11.25** Magnum, PI (AD) **1.30pm** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **2.40** Boon **3.45** Hornblower (AD) **5.50 FILM: Robin Hood — Prince of Thieves (PG, 1991)** An outlawed English nobleman recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure starring Kevin Costner **9.00 FILM: A Fistful of Dynamite (15, 1971)** A Mexican bandit and an Irish explosives expert team up to rob a bank, only to become unwitting heroes of the Revolution. Spaghetti Western starring Rod Steiger. *See film choice* (AD) **12.15am** Lost **1.50am-2.45** Motorsport UK. From Thruxton

U&Drama
6.00am Teleshopping **7.30** The Bill **8.25** Doctors **9.35** Classic Holby City **10.55** Casualty (AD) **11.55** The Bill **12.55pm** Classic EastEnders **2.15** Classic Neighbours **3.15** Whitstable Pearl (AD) **4.15** Kingdom **5.20** As Time Goes By **6.00** Last of the Summer Wine **8.00** The Brokenwood Mysteries. The boss of Brokenwood agricultural show dies after a ride on the Ghost Train (1/4) (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. The team investigates the unsolved murder of a pornographer (5/10) (AD) **11.20** Copper. Drama set during the 1860s in New York's notorious Five Points neighbourhood **12.20am** Lovejoy **1.30** Sister Boniface Mysteries (AD) **2.35** The Chelsea Detective (SL) **3.25** Birds of a Feather **4.00am-6.00** Teleshopping

Variations
BBC1 Scotland
6.45pm-7.30 Celebrity Escape to the Country (r) 11.00 Sportscene: SWPL Highlights (r) 11.30 Scotcast (r) 12.00 FILM: Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994) 1.55am Weather 2.00am-6.00 BBC News

BBC1 Wales
6.30pm Best of Weatherman Walking 7.00pm-7.30 The Travelling Auctioneers (r)

STV
12.50am-3.00 Shop on TV 4.05am-6.00 Night Vision

BBC Scotland
2.00pm-4.00 Sign Zone 7.00 News 7.30 Sportscene: SWPL Highlights 8.00 The Great Food Guys (r) 8.30 Race Against the Tide 9.00 River City 10.00 River City: The Last Take 11.00 Scotcast 11.30pm-12.00 Gary: Tank Commander (r)

S4C
6.00am Cyw 12.00 Richard Holt: Yr Academi Felys (r) 12.30pm Heno (r) 1.00 Straeon Harri Parri (r) 2.00 News; Weather 2.05 Prynhawn Da 3.00 News; Weather 3.05 Miwsig Fy Mywyd (r) 4.00 Awr Fawr: Blociau Rhif (r) 4.05 Sam Tan (r) 4.15 Bendibwmbwls (r) 4.25 Sion y Chef (r) 4.40 Amser Maith Maith yn Ôl (r) 5.00 Stwnsh: Dennis a Dannedd (r) 5.10 Byd Rwtsh Dai Potsh (r) 5.25 Bwystfil (r) 5.35 He-Man a Meistri'r Bydysawd (r) 6.00 Arfordir Cymru: Sir Benfro (r) 6.30 Lowri Morgan: Her 333 (r) 6.59 News 7.00 Heno 7.45 News; Weather 8.00 Y Sîn 8.25 Garddio a Mwy 8.55 News; Weather 9.00 Ralïo+ 9.33 Y Tywydd 9.35 Cefn Gwlad (r) 10.35 Y Deis (r) 11.05pm-12.10am Y Fets (r)

PBS America
8.00am Weathered: Earth's Extremes **8.50** Pocahontas: Beyond the Myth **9.55** The Great Fire: London Burns **10.55** The Great Fire: Death and Destruction **11.55** The Great Fire: A City Rebuilt **1.00pm** The Great Fire: London Burns **2.00** The Great Fire: Death and Destruction **3.05** The Great Fire: A City Rebuilt **4.05** Impossible Peace **7.30** Impossible Peace. By the late 1920s, Europe appeared to have put the economic strife behind them **8.35** Impossible Peace. When the great depression hit, candidates for leadership disappeared **9.40** Impossible Peace. With the US also suffering, Japan took the opportunity to increase their empire **10.50** Impossible Peace. By the mid 1930s, Hitler's ambitions were clear **12.00** Impossible Peace **1.10am-2.00** Weathered: Earth's Extremes

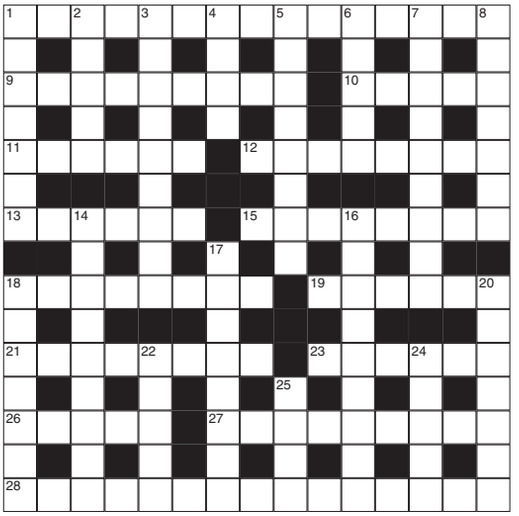
Sky Atlantic
6.00am Fish Town (r) **7.00** The Last of Us (r) (AD) **2.45pm** Possession. Supernatural thriller series (r) (AD) **7.45** House of the Dragon. Driven by her faith in Alicent, Rhaenyra positions herself to take King's Landing, while the Triarchy sails to take on Corlys in the Gullet (r) (AD) **9.00** House of the Dragon. Alicent risks everything to fulfil her end of the bargain, while Rhaenyra must decide whether the Iron Throne is worth the cost (r) (AD) **10.15** House of the Dragon. Rhaenyra learns that the situation in King's Landing is not what she anticipated (r) (AD) **11.15** House of the Dragon. Lord Ormund Hightower prepares to invade Tumbleton (r) (AD) **12.20am** House of the Dragon (r) (AD) **5.05am-6.00** The Guest Wing. Chillingham Castle (r) (AD)

Sky Docs
6.00am History of the Sitcom (r) **7.00** Discovering: George Clooney (r) (AD) **8.00 FILM: Spitfire (PG, 2018)** The story of British fighter plane the Supermarine Spitfire **10.00 FILM: Lancaster (PG, 2022)** The story of the bomber synonymous with the Dambusters (AD) **12.00 FILM: The Princess (12, 2022)** The life and work of Diana, Princess of Wales (AD) **1.45** I Am Johnny Cash (AD) **3.30** Dolly Parton: America Reunited **4.30** Salt Path: A Very British Scandal (r) **6.00** Rik Mayall: Magnificent B'stard. A documentary tribute (r) **8.00** Katie Price: Nothing to Hide. A documentary profile (r) (AD) **12.30am** Becoming Madonna (r) (AD) **2.30 FILM: Tina (15, 2021)** (AD) **4.45** My Icon: Christine Ohuruogu (r) (AD) **5.00am-6.00** Discovering: George Clooney (r) (AD)

U&Yesterday
6.10am Abandoned Engineering (AD) **7.10** The Architecture the Railways Built (AD) **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Churchill's Toyshop **11.00** The World at War **12.00** Antiques Roadshow **2.00pm** Bangers & Cash (AD) **4.00** Churchill's Toyshop **5.00** The World at War **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Seven Worlds, One Planet. Life in South America (3/7) (AD) **8.00** Canal Boat Diaries (4/4) **8.30** Canal Boat Diaries (1/4) **9.00** Canal Boat Diaries. Tackling the fast-flowing River Trent (2/4) **9.30** Canal Boat Diaries. Robbie Cumming breaks down (3/4) **10.00** Bangers & Cash (AD) **11.00** Bangers & Cash (AD) **12.00** Bangers & Cash. A Jaguar Mark 2 **1.00am** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **2.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **3.00am-6.10** Teleshopping

MindGames

General Knowledge Crossword No 353



Across

1 Oscar-winning British director of *Midnight Cowboy* (4,11)
9 Rodent not directly related to the superficially similar hedgehog and echidna (9)
10 Form of fungus such as those in the genus Penicillium (5)
11 Ian ---, Australian five-time Olympic swimming gold medallist (6)
12 Fish from which caviar is obtained (8)
13 Bone of the forearm (6)
15 Wide level areas of sediment deposited in estuaries (8)
18 British fashion brand famed for its trench coats (8)
19 Title of the spiritual teacher Gautama Siddhartha (6)
21 Second largest of the Channel Islands (8)
23 Set of racehorses belonging to a particular owner (6)
26 Textured alternative to plaster, used primarily for ceilings (5)
27 Recent biographical TV drama telling the story of a celebrated Australian tennis player (9)
28 Bird also known as a "yaffle" after its cackling call (5,10)

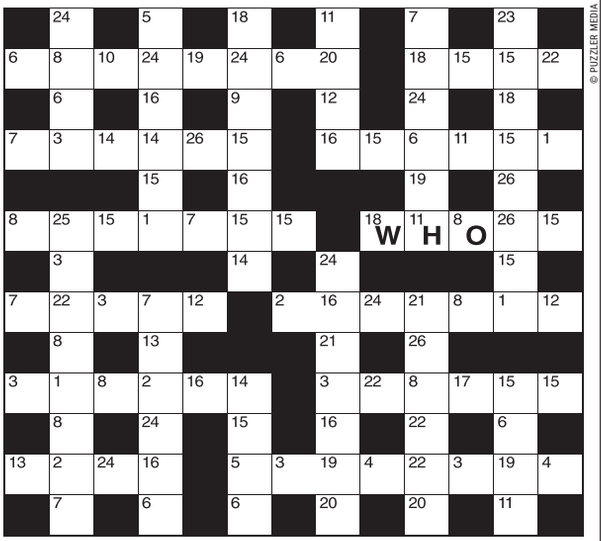
Down

1 King of the Roman gods (7)
2 Marx brother who never audibly spoke on film (5)
3 Art form associated with Anish Kapoor and Elisabeth Frink (9)
4 Form of icy precipitation (4)
5 Alloy of gold and silver (8)
6 Large Turkish port formerly known as Smyrna (5)
7 Matthias ---, German artist, an almost exact contemporary of Albrecht Dürer (9)
8 Areas into which Yorkshire is traditionally divided (7)
14 Large black insect that drones in flight (3,6)
16 Bakery item with types from Genoa and Dundee (9)
17 Chord whose notes are played in rapid succession (8)
18 Theory of the universe's origin named by Fred Hoyle (3,4)
20 Superhero such as Iron Man, Hulk or Thor (7)
22 Only US president to have resigned from office (5)
24 Acclaimed singer-songwriter born in Reykjavik in 1965 (5)
25 River crossing point (4)

Last week's solution

F	I	S	H	C	A	K	E	S		W	A	F	E	R
I		E		R		E		I		R		R		O
R	O	D	E	O		S	T	R	E	I	S	A	N	D
E		G		I		T		O		S		G		E
D	R	E	S	S	E	R		C	I	I	T	R	O	E	N
A				S		E		C				N		T
M	I	C	H	A	E	L	D	O	U	G	L	A	S	
P		R		N						A		R		G
	C	O	N	T	R	A	C	T	B	R	I	D	G	E
I		C				N		Y		F				L
S	H	O	T	P	U	T		N	E	U	T	R	A	L
A		D		L		O	W	N		O		M		
B	R	I	T	A	N	N	I	A		K	R	O	N	A
E		L		T		Y		L		E		S		N
L	O	E	W	E		M	I	D	D	L	E	T	O	N

Codeword No 5933



© PUZZLER MEDIA

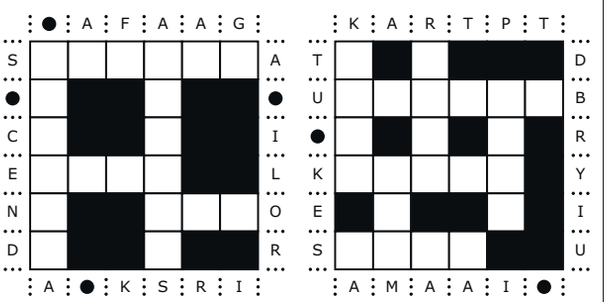
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				W			O			H		

Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

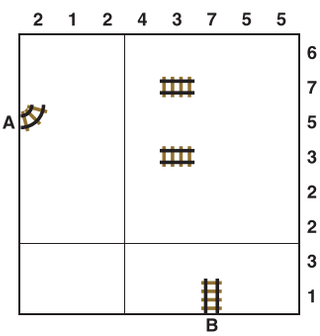
Cluelines **Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. If you have an old newspaper and need clues from the past 7 days, call 0905 624 0024. Calls to 0905 cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Lexica Easy No 9087 Hard No 9088



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 2958



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram® No 2660

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 West Wing is friendly (4)

_ _ _ _

2 More impulsive sharer in disarray (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Former partner meeting cheeky pro (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Lovely butch arm in golden shackles (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Hold on to rice wine as souvenir (8)

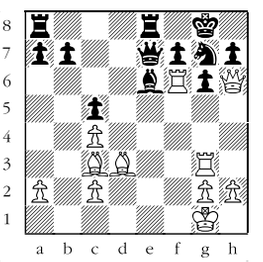
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	C	E	E	E
E	E	E	G	H	H	I	K
K	M	M	N	P	P	R	R
R	R	R	S	S	T	W	X

Challenge your mind with these fiendish word and number puzzles

timesbookshop.co.uk

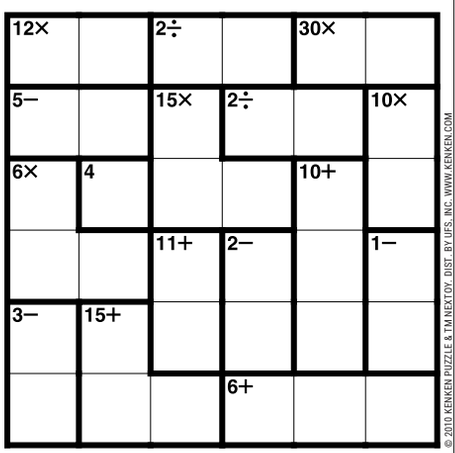
Winning Move



White to play. This position is from Haitin-Ponnio, Jyvaskyla 2026.

There is a saying in chess: "When attacking, invite everyone to the party". White has followed this advice to the letter and the queen, two rooks and two bishops have turned up. How did White finish off?

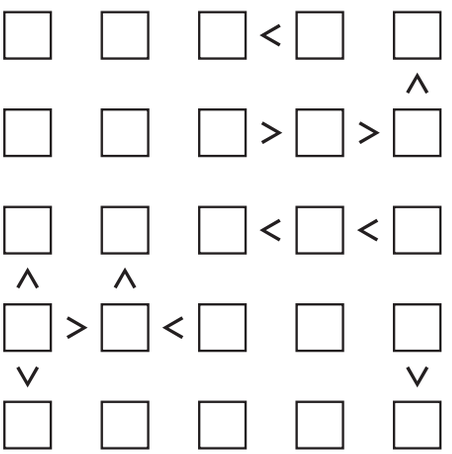
KenKen Easy No 6925



© 2010 KENKEN PUZZLE & TM NEXTOY. DIST. BY UFS, INC. WWW.KENKEN.COM

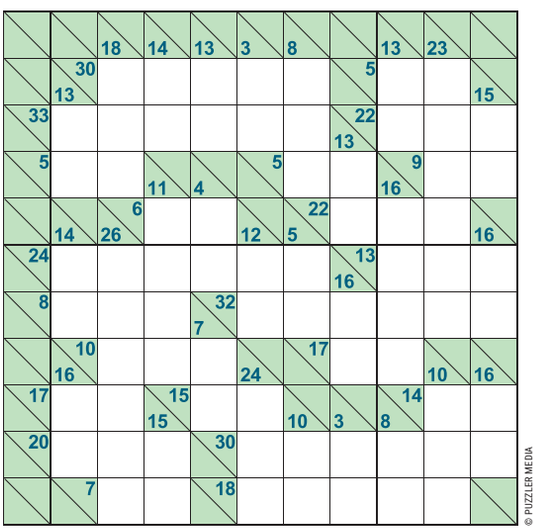
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 5473



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 4432

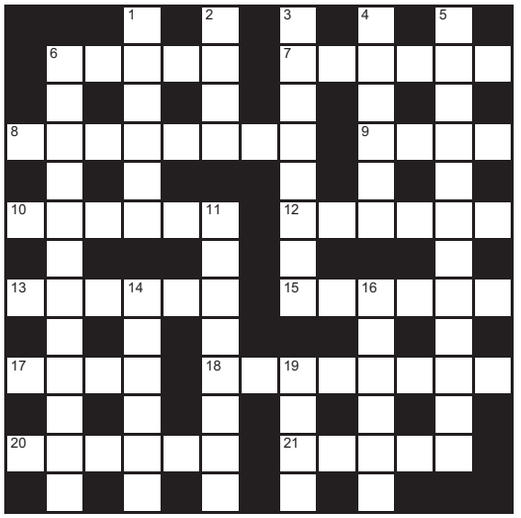


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

© PUZZLER MEDIA

MindGames

times2 Crossword No 10,249



Across

6 Molars or canines, eg (5)
7 Hold up the journey of (6)
8 Ignite anew (8)
9 Otherwise, instead (4)
10 Ball game (6)
12 Delete, obliterate (6)
13 Paint giving a smooth hard finish (6)
15 Steady, firmly set (6)
17 Type of ear jewellery (4)
18 Small nocturnal primate (8)
20 Superficial appearance (6)
21 Show the way to (5)

Down

1 Middle value in a sequence of numbers (6)
2 Dull sound of an impact (4)
3 Plucking tool (8)
4 First-person reflexive pronoun (6)
5 Controversy of wide public interest (5,7)
6 Immediately, without delay (5,3,4)
11 City of Mozart's birth (8)
14 Enrage, incense (6)
16 Even though (6)
19 Audible expression of sadness or relief (4)

Solution to Crossword 10,248

S	L	O	U	C	H			A	R	I	A			
	O		N		A		S		E		C			
	C	O	W	S	L	I	P		A		C			
	A		I		V		A	S	L	E	E	P		
B	L	U	S	T	E	R	Y				N			
	E		E				E	X	C	I	T	E		
			L		I		D		A					
C	A	N	Y	O	N				P		P			
	N				D	O	C	K	Y	A	R	D		
K	I	M	C	H	I		A		B		A			
	M		O		C	U	R	T	A	I	N			
	A		R		T		A		R		C			
	L	U	N	G			T	H	A	M	E	S		

Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

"I never wanted to be run of the mill." Barbara Jordan.

This 3NT from a social rubber looks run of the mill. It appears you have three establishable heart tricks to go with four clubs and the ace-king of spades — easy peasy. Plan the play on West's ♠2 lead.

It's tempting to play low from dummy — perhaps you will win your ten (if West has underled ♠QJ) or freeze the suit if East has ♠Q9x/♠J9x (meaning neither defender can profitably continue the suit). After beating East's jack with the king, you lead a heart to the nine.

If East is kind enough to win the ace of hearts on the first round, you can untangle your winners. However, East lets dummy's nine win. You lead a second (low) heart and (although East can defeat you whether he wins or ducks the second heart) East ducks again. He wins your third heart and leads a second spade to the eight and West's nine. Perhaps you duck (it doesn't matter) and win West's third spade with dummy's ace. Now down to needing clubs 3-3, you cross to the king-queen, cash your fourth heart then lead the jack of clubs. With West discarding, there's no point in overtaking with the ace (the suit is not 3-3). You are, in fact, dead, with no way to reach the ace of clubs.

Do you know when you went wrong? It was all the way back to trick one. As soon as you played a low spade from dummy, 3NT was unmakeable (provided East ducked the ace of hearts). The issue is the club blockage, necessitating great care with your communications.

Win trick one with the ace of spades (key play) and cross to ♣KQJ, unblocking the suit straight away (note, this would not work if you had already used up your king of spades entry to hand, because East could then duck two hearts to prevent you reaching your fourth heart). Now lead a heart to the nine. East may duck (or not) but you can avail yourself of being in dummy to cash the ace of clubs. You can now drive out the ace of hearts with the king of spades entry (if East ducks his ace until the third round).

Finally, note that if you play a low spade from dummy at trick one then duck East's jack, the defence can switch to diamonds to set up a long card there. Fail to rise with dummy's ace of spades and you'll fail to make the contract. Simples.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Rubber

	♠A63 ♥J92 ♦Q102 ♣A532	
♠Q952 ♥865 ♦K764 ♣74	N W E S	♠J74 ♥A74 ♦A85 ♣10986
	♠K108 ♥KQ103 ♦J93 ♣KQJ	

S	W	N	E
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT(1)	Pass	3NT(2)	End

(1) Showing 15-19, forcing to game.
(2) May show the delayed (three-card) heart support, bidding 3♥ to offer a choice of games. But the 4333 shape argues for 3NT.

Contract: 3NT, Opening Lead: ♠2

Brain Trainer

EASY	34	x 8	+ 2	- 24	x 4	DOUBLE IT	÷ 20	x 5	+ 60	÷ 4	ANSWER
MEDIUM	35	÷ 7	+ 41	TRIPLE IT	- 24	÷ 6	DOUBLE IT	x 4	- 73	x 3	ANSWER
HARDER	13	TIMES ITSELF	– 27	ADD 50% OF IT	+ 123	÷ 12	+3/7 OF IT	TIMES ITSELF	÷ 8	- 5/8 OF IT	ANSWER

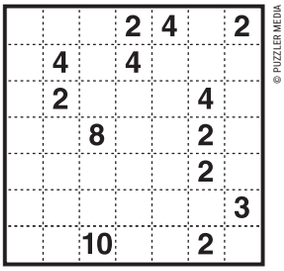
Polygon

From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 15 words, average; 21, good; 25, very good; 30, excellent

Saturday's answers

enter, entrée, erst, ester, leet, lest, nest, nester, nestle, relent, **relentless**, rent, resent, reset, rest, rete, retell, sent, sente, sleet, steel, steer, stele, stere, stern, streel, teen, tell, teller, tense, teres, tern, terne, terse, tree, treeless, treen, tress

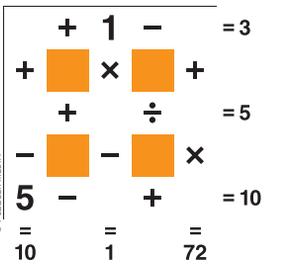
Cell Blocks No 5816



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

© PUZZLER MEDIA

Set Square No 4435

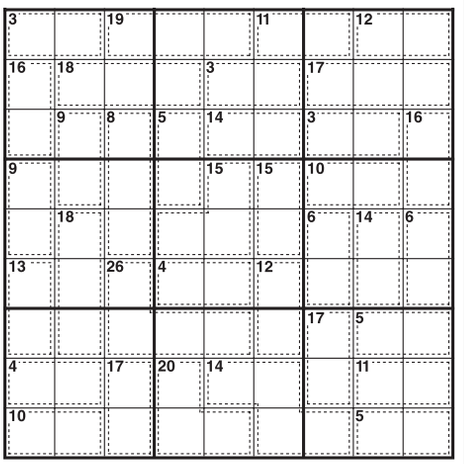


Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

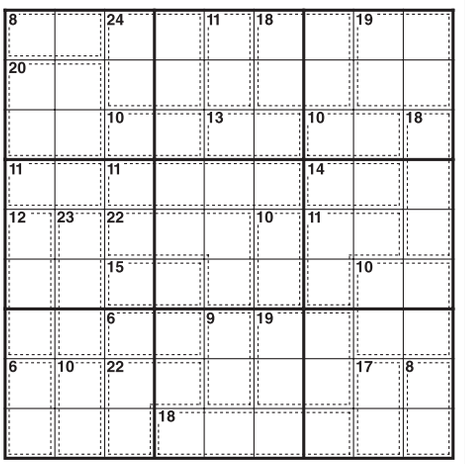
© PUZZLER MEDIA

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Gentle No 10,904



Killer Tricky No 10,905



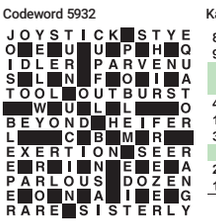
As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

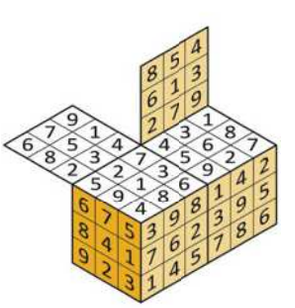
Quick Cryptic 3392

Codeword 5932

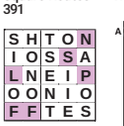


Kakuro 4430

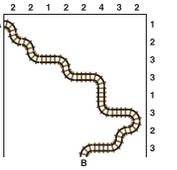
Tredoku 1957



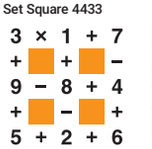
Square Routes 391



Train Tracks 2957

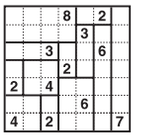


Set Square 4433

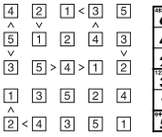


Lexica 9081

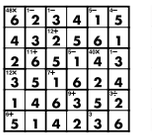
Cell Blocks 5815



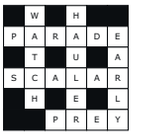
Futoshiki 5471



KenKen 6924



Lexica 9082



Sudoku 17,066

1	9	2	8	7	4	3	6	5
8	5	3	6	2	1	4	7	9
7	4	6	3	5	9	1	2	8
4	7	9	5	6	2	8	1	3
2	3	1	4	8	7	9	5	6
5	6	8	1	9	3	7	4	2
6	1	4	2	3	8	5	9	7
3	2	7	9	4	5	6	8	1
9	8	5	7	1	6	2	3	4

Killer 10,903

1	5	7	9	8	6	4	3	2
8	2	6	7	4	3	9	5	1
3	4	9	1	5	2	6	7	8
7	6	2	3	9	5	8	1	4
9	3	1	8	7	4	2	6	5
5	8	4	2	6	1	3	9	7
2	7	3	6	1	8	5	4	9
6	1	5	4	2	9	7	8	3
4	9	8	5	3	7	1	2	6

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Hit
2 Debit
3 Sunlight
4 Question
5 Free kick

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Warm
2 Rasher
3 Expert
4 Charming
5 Keepsake

Sakuro 4834

Brain Trainer
Easy 140
Medium 237
Harder 75

Word watch

Tortfeasor (a) A wrongdoer (*OED*)
Bahuvrihi (b) A type of compound word (*Collins*)
Seg (a) A metal plate in a shoe's sole (*Chambers*)

Chess — Winning Move

1 Qxg7+! tears open the position and allows the rooks and bishops to finish off: 1 ... Kxg7 2 Rfxg6+ Kf8 3 Rg8 mate.

Quiz

1 Hedgehog **2** France **3** South America **4** John F Kennedy **5** Horsehair **6** Portsmouth **7** Pipe organ **8** Maria Callas **9** Haemoglobin **10** *My Guy* **11** Astrolabe **12** Jackalope **13** George Nakashima **14** Harold Wilson **15** Daisy Edgar-Jones

THE TIMES

31.08.26

MindGames

For extra puzzles
See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Tortfeasor
a A wrongdoer
b A muscle that twists the neck
c A piece of armour for the back

Bahuvrihi
a A believer in the value of all religions
b A type of compound word
c A portable chest for clothing

Seg
a A metal plate in a shoe's sole
b A clove of garlic
c A trigonometrical function

Answers on page 15

Sudoku
Easy No 17,067 | Difficult No 17,068 | Fiendish No 17,069

9	1		4		3		8	2
	5		8		9		4	
	4		1		7		9	
	6						7	
8	7	2				3	1	5
		8	9		5	1		
4				7				9
		5	3	1	8	6		

7			4		1		3	
	4	2			7	8		
	9			6				2
			5	1		6		
		7		4	6			
6				5			4	
		9	2			1	5	
	5		6		8			3

	9						3	
				2			7	
		2		4	3	6		
3	4				8		9	5
								6
7	2				6		8	1
		7		5	9	8		
				6			4	
	3						1	

© PUZZLER MEDIA

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

MIKE MARSLAND/GETTY IMAGES

1 What animal is Max in Dick King-Smith's children's book *The Hodgeheg*?

2 The Versailles rail accident, on May 8, 1842, was which country's first railway disaster?

3 Cape Horn is a steep rocky headland on which continent?

4 Which US president's yacht, the Honey Fitz, was named after his grandfather, Boston mayor John Francis Fitzgerald?

5 A British judge's wig is traditionally made from what hair?

6 The M275 is one of the busiest strategic routes in which city in Hampshire?

7 TC Lewis built examples of which musical instrument for Southwark Cathedral and Westminster Cathedral?

8 Robert Sutherland (1930-2025) was the last pianist to play for which Greek-American soprano?

9 Sickle cell disease is caused by an abnormality in which oxygen-carrying protein?

10 A 1964 hit for Mary Wells and a 2026 single by Sam Smith share what title?

11 Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a 1391 treatise on which astronomical instrument for his son Lewis?

12 The *Frasier* character Niles Crane referred to which legendary creature as "Texas's answer to the Minotaur"?

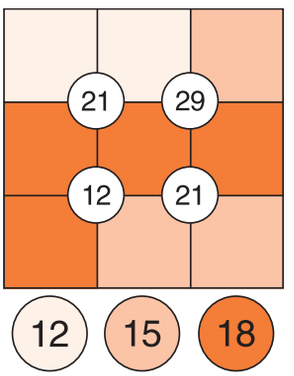
13 Known for his Conoid furniture, which Japanese-American woodworker wrote the 1981 memoir *The Soul of a Tree*?

14 Which Labour politician was prime minister when England won the 1966 Fifa World Cup?

15 Which star of the 2020 TV drama Normal People is pictured?

Answers on page 15

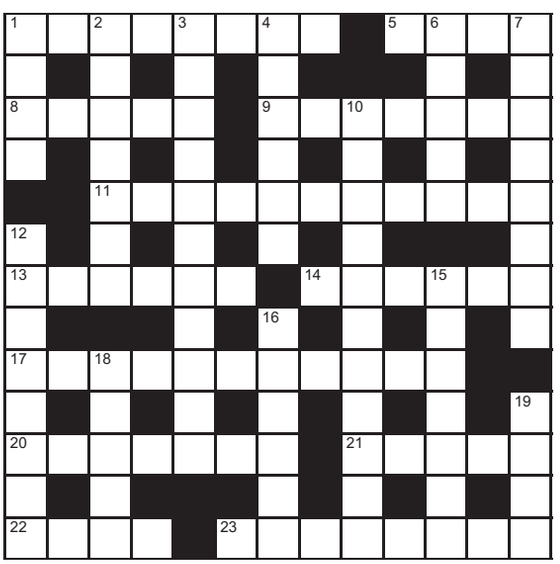
Sakuro
No 4834



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.com

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 3394 by Trelawney



Across
1 Jack, perhaps, confronted outside vehicle (4,4)
5 Superstar not doing anything on the radio (4)
8 Inmate embracing an ordained minister (5)
9 Nice to bypass large farm labourer (7)
11 Counterfeit guys enthralled by child's flower (6-2-3)
13 Show up in a river swimming (6)
14 Loved a party with wine (6)
17 Other artist ruined BBC show (3,8)
20 Fuss with hand luggage (5-2)
21 Make out hidden disadvantage (5)
22 Nobleman almost ahead of schedule (4)
23 Proceed left for travel document (8)

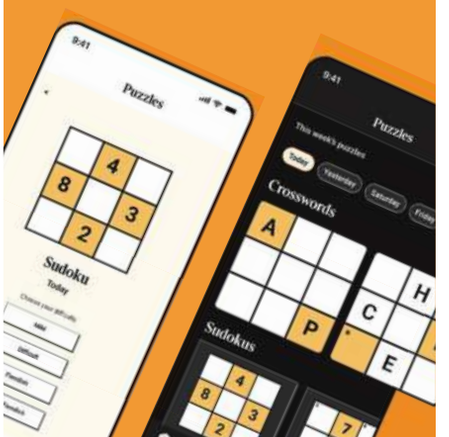
Down
1 Gruff actor conceals truth (4)
2 Discuss hugging one tree (7)
3 Debate County spurning United but welcoming Rovers (11)
4 Reportedly cover Eminem, say (6)
6 Sketched tie and gown ultimately (5)
7 Freedom quietly dropped from trite remark (8)
10 Military screamed for bananas (5,6)
12 Tiny piece of relic apt for redevelopment (8)
15 Some of dinner is Ottoman rice dish (7)
16 Struggle ninja regularly avoided in capital city (6)
18 Fear overlooking leader's mistake (5)
19 Close small cabin (4)

Friday's solution on page 15

Subscribe for more puzzles

- Puzzles updated daily
- Play against the clock
- Compete in our leaderboard
- Play offline and online

To try a digital subscription, visit thetimes.com/subscribe



THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE TIMES
TheGame
THETIMES.COM/SPORT
MONDAY AUGUST 31 2026

More than just a creator

After breaking Premier League assist record last season, Bruno Fernandes scores hat-trick in 5-2 Manchester United victory over Ipswich Town

PAGES 2-3

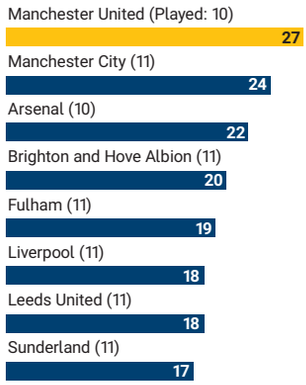
Thrilling, vulnerable United still dependent on Bruno

MANCHESTER UNITED 5
Fernandes 40, 61 (pen), 68, Greaves 56 (og), Mbeumo 82

IPSWICH TOWN 2
Davis 29, Akpom 90+1

Paul Hirst
Old Trafford

MOST POINTS WON AT HOME IN PREMIER LEAGUE IN 2026



In some ways, this was an afternoon of new beginnings at Old Trafford. A new signing was paraded on the pitch before kick-off, a new squad number adorned the back of Marcus Rashford's shirt and there was a new player in the Manchester United midfield.

Some things never change, though. That uncertain feeling of not knowing what this team will bring to the table endures.

United were off the pace in the first half, devoid of confidence and vulnerable in the full-back positions, but ruthless and thrilling after half-time. They ended the match with 33 shots, the most since the 38 they registered against Burnley ten years ago.

United's reliance on Bruno Fernandes is still the same as ever, too. United last scored five goals at Old Trafford in their first Premier League fixture of the campaign in 2021, against Leeds United. Fernandes scored a hat-trick then too.

Just before half-time here, when United were creaking up against Ipswich Town's electric wingers, Fernandes came to the rescue, lashing the first of his three goals past Kjell Scherpen to give Michael Carrick his first win of the season.

The Portuguese turns 32 next week, but is showing no signs of wear and tear. Five days after collecting the PFA Player of the Year award at the Manchester Opera House, Fernandes scored two more goals in the second half and set up Bryan Mbeumo for United's final goal of a rain-drenched afternoon, typical in these parts for the end of August, of course.

Baleba, United's new midfielder, was unveiled before kick-off

It was raining goals by the end of the contest — Jacob Greaves diverted Harry Maguire's shot in for United's other goal — and Carrick can take plenty of positives from the display, particularly in the second half.

In the first 45 minutes, Leif Davis put Ipswich ahead with a stunning finish after Abdul Fatawu embarrassed the left back Luke Shaw with a burst of pace down the wing.

Diogo Dalot looked suspect defensively too, underlining the fact that United need to sign a full back before the transfer window closes.

But after Fernandes equalised following a slip by Marcelino Núñez, United turned on the style. Rashford worked tirelessly, created chances and had a couple of his own on his first start at Old Trafford for nearly two years.

Kobbie Mainoo, England's forgotten man at the World Cup, knitted play together well alongside Youri Tielemans, who made his first appearance in a United shirt at Old Trafford.

Every time that Ipswich tried to play through the middle, Mainoo was there, and his ability to quickly turn defence into attack aided United greatly.

Shortly before Carlos Baleba, the £70 million signing from Brighton & Hove Albion, waved to all four corners of the crowd, Rashford lapped up the applause of the fans in the Stretford End as he completed his warm-up.

Thirteen months on, with the door to Barcelona now seemingly shut, he has a chance to re-establish himself at Old Trafford.

Rashford pressed Ipswich and played a few tricks to impress the fans, jinking one way, then the other to set up Matheus Cunha, who shot over the bar.

A frenetic five minutes followed. Dalot tested Scherpen with a curling shot before Julio Enciso, a menace throughout, steamed clear of Shaw and Mbeumo before shooting straight at Senne Lammens. Cunha then broke away, sending a teasing cross across the face of goal but Rashford left his run just too late.

At the other end, Davis probed the area behind Dalot with a peach of a pass that set Daizen Maeda on a mazy run, but Lammens gobbled up his cross.

United looked just as vulnerable down their left. Fatawu needed little strength, speed or conviction to burn past Shaw and deliver a cross to the back post, where Davis pinged a delicious half-volley past Lammens off the underside of the bar to send the away fans into ecstasy. Davis should have doubled Ipswich's lead but froze when another deep cross landed at his feet and Lammens reacted quickly.

United equalised in the 40th minute in fortunate circumstances. Núñez slipped on the halfway line when he received a pass, which left Cunha and Fernandes with a two-on-one advantage. Cunha measured a lovely pass around the retreating Sasa Lukic, leaving Fernandes with enough space to take one touch before lashing the ball past Scherpen.

Mbeumo should have put United ahead when Rashford hooked Fernandes's delivery across the face of goal but he hit the bar from close range. It did not matter though. Soon after, Maguire stopped Chuba Akpom's attempt to hook the ball clear and drilled a low shot that flew in off Dara O'Shea. Maguire handled the ball in the lead-up but because his original shot was going wide, the goal stood.

4-1 Fernandes 68min

1-1 Fernandes 40min

TIMES PHOTOGRPAHER BRADLEY ORMESHER; ANDREW YATES/ALAMY; SIMON STACPOOLE/OFFSIDE/GETTY IMAGES

3-1 Fernandes 61min (pen)

From angst to relief for Le Bris after Isidor strike

SUNDERLAND 1
Isidor 75

FULHAM 0

Martin Hardy
Stadium of Light

Shows of emotion from Régis Le Bris, the Sunderland head coach, are rare, so when he fell to his knees in the 71st minute in angst when Wilson Isidor struck a post — with the score still goalless — it spoke of the need for Sunderland to win this game.

Sunderland will wear pink strips away from home this season, part of a collaboration with the Elvis Presley estate (and an extension of the club's supporters singing *Can't Help Falling in Love* from way back in 1977). It was not quite the dramatic manoeuvre that was made famous by Elvis, but, nonetheless, it was a sheepish Le Bris who spoke of the moment. "I don't remember!" he said. "I need to review the clip. It was so well played so it was just the finish. It was a shame." It was indeed.

The usual double act of Granit Xhaka and Enzo Le Fée were the creators. Xhaka swept a left-footed ball down the Sunderland left, over the shoulder of Le Fée, who cracked a fine, first-time ball across the face of the Fulham area, 14 yards from goal. Isidor came on to it first time and crashed a right-footed shot off the upright. Heads were in hands throughout the stadium, including the grounded Le Bris.

By contrast, four minutes later, when a similar move, except down the Sunderland right this time, ended with the same player, Isidor, latching on to Habib Diarra's cross and firing his shot past Bernd Leno into the Fulham goal, Le Bris barely moved a muscle.

"I was concerned by the offside," he said. "Habib was just in front of me and I thought it was possible to be offside until the bench showed me, it's OK."

Diarra and Isidor, two substitutes, had the desired impact, and this was a huge win after an opening day defeat by Ipswich Town. Optimism filled the Stadium of Light at the game's start and relief filled it at its finish.

There were opportunities for Fulham's Josh King, who shot over midway through the first half, and then when he was blocked by a tackle from Reinildo. Gonzalo García was denied by another last-ditch challenge from Nordi Mukiele early in the second half, when the score was level, and he should have done better. Fulham had plenty of the ball but little penetration with it. They have now lost two from two.

"It wasn't our game for sure," their head coach, Álvaro Arbeloa, said. "We have to have a different mentality. We need to demand more from ourselves."

TEAMS

Sunderland (4-2-3-1): R Roefs — T Meunier, N Mukiele, D Ballard, Reinildo — N Sadiki, G Xhaka — T Hume, E Le Fée (R Mundle 90min), N Angulo (H Diarra 65; C Rigg 83) — B Brobbey (W Isidor 64).

Fulham (4-2-3-1): B Leno — T Castagne (R Sessegnon 68), J Andersen, C Bassey, A Robinson — S Berge (Kevin 83), A Iwobi — O Bobb (S Charles 68), J King, C Palacios (E Smith Rowe 77)— G García.

Booked Andersen, Palacios.

Referee M Salisbury.

Attendance 46,781.

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	2	2	0	0	6	2	4	6
Hull	2	2	0	0	3	0	3	6
Chelsea	2	2	0	0	7	5	2	6
Brentford	2	1	1	0	4	1	3	4
Newcastle	2	1	1	0	4	2	2	4
Everton	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
Leeds	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
Brighton	2	1	0	1	7	4	3	3
Arsenal	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
Man Utd	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
Sunderland	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
Ipswich	2	1	0	1	4	6	-2	3
Liverpool	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
Bournemouth	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
Nott'm Forest	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
Fulham	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
Aston Villa	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
Coventry	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0
Crystal Palace	2	0	0	2	1	6	-5	0
Tottenham	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0

Online today

The Game podcast

Tom Clarke is joined in the studio by Alyson Rudd, Gregor Robertson and Peter Rutzler to discuss all the big talking points from the weekend

The football newsletter

Insight from the Times Sport team in your inbox at 5pm

thetimes.com/sport

When Mainoo sent Cunha through on goal, the Brazilian looked set to add a third, but Greaves tripped the forward and Craig Pawson pointed to the spot.

After a shimmy and a prolonged run-up in front of the Stretford End, Fernandes sent the goalkeeper the wrong way to make it 3-1.

There was an element of luck about Fernandes's final goal. Shortly after Mainoo's shot was blocked, the ball fell to Mbeumo, whose own effort was diverted into Fernandes's path and he tapped in from close range.

There was still more time for one more goal contribution from the captain. This time, he carved Ipswich open with a 30-yard pass and Mbeumo lobbed Scherpen.

Enciso picked Lisandro Martínez's pocket as he dawdled on the ball and squared to Akpom, who tapped in to give Ipswich a late consolation. But this was United's — and their captain's — day.

TEAMS

Manchester United (4-2-3-1): S Lammens — D Dalot (L Yoro 74min), H Maguire, L Martínez, L Shaw (N Mazraoui 73) — Y Tielemans, K Mainoo (A Santos 80) — B Mbeumo, B Fernandes, M Rashford (P Dorgu 80) — M Cunha (B Sesko 80).

Booked Mbeumo.

Ipswich Town (4-2-3-1): K Scherpen — D O'Shea, I Diop, J Greaves, L Davis — S Lukic (A Ouattara 73), M Núñez (E Palacios 62) — A Fatawu (K McAteer 83), J Enciso, D Maeda (D Furlong 73) — Emersonn (C Akpom 46).

Booked Greaves, Lukic, Fatawu.

Referee C Pawson.

Attendance 74,148.

Peter Walton

Former Premier League referee

Jacob Greaves' own goal that put Manchester United 2-1 up will have raised a few eyebrows after VAR's intervention. On replay, the ball can be seen striking the arm of Harry Maguire, left, before his shot took a deflection that sent it into the goal.

The handball laws state that if the goalscorer handles the ball in the build-up, accidentally or intentionally, then it should be disallowed. After the goal was given, the Premier League's official Match Centre revealed the advice given to the referee. "It's an own goal, and the accidental handball is not punishable, so we recommend you award the goal."

I would argue this interpretation of the handball law adds a further layer of confusion while making the decisions more subjective than they need to be. Maguire may not have ended up being the goalscorer, but his handball led to the own goal. I feel the goal should have been disallowed.

CHELSEA 4
Lavia 4, Neto 14, João Pedro 32, Palmer 74

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION 3
Yalcouyé 35, João Pedro, 63og, Gross 90+6

Peter Rutzler

Stamford Bridge

Chelsea have the look of flawed entertainers

Xabi Alonso's Chelsea have not started life quietly in the Premier League and these early iterations suggest they might be the division's flawed entertainers. Another goalfest, this time against Brighton & Hove Albion, yielded three more points, but also another blur of fluent, fast-paced attacking play mixed with defensive foibles.

That is 12 goals now in their first two games; box office for a neutral, but Alonso, no doubt, may be seeking a little more calm. Especially if they have designs on the upper echelons of the Premier League.

"I enjoyed quite a lot at the end," Alonso said. "But for sure there are things, moments that we have done really well, other moments where this is a process. We are in the process to keep learning, to keep improving."

Brighton were disappointed that they could not pull off an impressive comeback at Stamford Bridge, though the fact they gave it a good go merits credit, given a swathe of attacking absences. Kaoru Mitoma, Yankuba Minteh, Georginio Rutter, Jack Hinshelwood and Yasin Ayari were all unavailable, but after going 3-0 down inside 32 minutes, thanks to goals from João Pedro, Pedro Neto and Romeo Lavia, Fabian Hürzeler's side fought back.

Malick Yalcouyé, a 20-year-old midfielder recruited two seasons ago but carefully incubated at the Amex talent factory with help from loans at Sturm Graz and Swansea City, was a bright spark and scored a fine first goal for the club, before a João Pedro own goal threw the game wide open.

Diego Gómez could have equalised at 3-2, missing a glorious headed chance, but Cole Palmer went up the other end to take the game beyond the visiting side, even with Pascal Gross's late consolation. Ultimately, they were just picked off too many times in possession; Chelsea willing to sit deep and then strike in transition.

"It's not that easy if you don't play with the same starting XI," Hürzeler said. "In certain elements, we missed this connection, we missed these relationships on the pitch. But they tried as hard as they could and therefore I'm really proud of them."

Alonso is implementing change and has quickly sought to dismantle some prevailing clichés. Signing Emiliano Martínez epitomised that in more ways than one; a new top goalkeeper in one sense, but he was also the first player aged 30 or over to start for the club in the league for 77 consecutive games.

He was unable to stop their run without a clean sheet, which is now 18 games — the club's longest run in a league competition since 1960-61 — but crucially, this was a gaffe-free showing, and the terraces were grateful for that. "[He's a] World Cup winner, experience all around," Alonso said. "Day by day we will feel his presence because he has this charisma, this aura to influence and to have a very positive connection with the rest of the team."

It was revealing that Robert Sánchez was not included at all after his blunder against Fulham last week, with 21-year-old Mike Penders preferred on the bench. It is unlikely that Sánchez will be seen again in a Chelsea shirt.

This is also a different-looking Chelsea. Agonising over possession is gone. They ended the match with 25 per cent of the ball, which follows another low return at Fulham — 38 per cent. Alonso says that is because of the bright start and the state of the game, but it does reflect that he is not a high priest of ball dominance. "I don't say today we need to have 60 per cent or 20 per cent," Alonso said. "It is about how to prepare, how to be more competitive."

It has delivered two wins from two, their attack eye-catching again. João Pedro was in his element, with flicks and nutmegs, though he should have had a bigger goal tally, given a sitter he missed in the first half.

Palmer too was guilty of a wince-inducing miss and his afternoon was shaping up to a quiet comedown after his blazing performance at Craven Cottage, all with Thomas Tuchel watching on. His goal, though, was Palmer at his best, surging with the ball in midfield and caressing it coolly into the far corner from the edge of the box.

While their attack can win any game, they are conceding chances and Brighton created a fair few; perhaps with a stronger midfield Chelsea will be steadier. There are concerns about Moisés Caicedo, who was not fit enough to start, and when he was thrown on in the second half he lasted only 14 minutes, before going down again. Alonso said he went off as a precaution.

Malo Gusto started in midfield here, with Enzo Fernández absent once again as his future remains up in the air. Chelsea will not let Fernández go without strengthening their own team, and midfield already has a question mark — even if Lavia scored his first goal for Chelsea after just four minutes.

João Pedro's header from Neto's corner was blocked by Mats Wieffer on the line and just as he went to clear it, Bart Verbruggen grasped for the ball, fumbled it and it fell straight to Lavia.

Chelsea doubled their lead through Neto; Morgan Rogers held off his marker before rolling the ball into the path of the Victor Moses-style wingback to score. João Pedro finished off a lightning counterattack for the third, led by Jorrel Hato, the wingback, galloping 50 yards to assist.

Neto was caught out for Brighton's first goal, Yalcouyé breaking clear, but Charalampos Kostoulas was blocked by Martínez, rushing off his line well, though it fell back to Yalcouyé who scored via a post. João Pedro's own goal came after half-time; a well-worked corner ended with the ball looping beyond Martínez after his team-mate deflected a cross by Gross.

Palmer's injection of quality calmed growing panic and Gross's goal, nodding home late on, was too late to influence the game, but certainly reinforced how Chelsea remain a work in progress.

TEAMS

Chelsea (3-4-2-1): E Martínez — W Fofana (J Acheampong 68min), M Lacroix, L Colwill (P Chavarría 72) — P Neto (M Caicedo 68; V Barco 82), M Gusto, R Lavia (R James 68), J Hato — C Palmer, M Rogers — João Pedro. **Booked** Fofana.

Brighton & Hove Albion (4-2-3-1): B Verbruggen — M Wieffer (Costinha 80), L Dunk, L Vuskovic, F Kadioglu — O Boscagli, P Gross — D Gómez, M Yalcouyé (I Osman 74), M De Cuyper — C Kostoulas (P David 80). **Booked** Dunk, Boscagli, Costinha.

Referee M Oliver.

DAVID KLEIN/REUTERS; JACQUES FEENEY/OFFSIDE/GETTY IMAGES; SPORTS PRESS PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Palmer, main, scores the fourth Chelsea goal in front of Tuchel before being mobbed by his team-mates while, above, Martínez, on his debut, can't keep out Brighton's second, a João Pedro own goal

Brentford left to rue wasted chances

LEEDS UNITED	**1**
Calvert-Lewin 79	
BRENTFORD	**1**
Schade 41	

Ian Whittell
Elland Road

Daniel Farke once described his personality as "95 per cent coffee and cake on the sofa, five per cent fire beast". Thankfully, for Leeds United's first home game of the season, his team managed to summon up five per cent of the latter to convert their first real chance of the game and steal a point.

Until Dominic Calvert-Lewin struck on 79 minutes, Farke's opposite number Keith Andrews looked like he would be guiding Brentford to the top of the table if his team could turn some of their numerous chances into another goal or two, and add to Kevin Schade's opener.

But, with Lukas Nmecha finally offering Leeds a focal point up front and Dan James and Harry Wilson buzzing around midfield, the Elland Road crowd responded before Nmecha latched on to Ethan Ampadu's clever pass and crossed for Calvert-Lewin to slide in and convert from two yards.

"The storm was always going to come," Andrews, the Brentford head coach, said. "We'll learn from the second half. I thought there were moments where we could have controlled it a little bit more, played out of the press a little bit more."

For the opening hour, Brentford's odds of winning looked roughly aligned with the coffee and cake percentage of Farke's personality. Even after Calvert-Lewin's equaliser, there was still a glorious chance for Igor Thiago to restore Brentford's lead but the Brazilian's header, from Dango Ouattara's cross, was well saved by James Trafford.

Brentford's second should really have arrived long before then in a first half in which they had 11 shots and 26 touches in the Leeds area. But all they had to show for it was a 40th-minute goal from Schade, started when the Leeds defender Jaka Bijol unnecessarily lunged in on halfway and opened his team up to a Brentford counter.

Still, any number of his team-mates could have helped as Brentford's attack went through three more phases before Keane Lewis-Potter crossed and Schade reacted superbly to flick in from eight yards. To revisit Farke's quote, for the first goal his team conceded this season, his players were most definitely 100 per cent on the sofa.

Bijol was removed at the break, Farke matched Brentford's 4-2-3-1 formation and, with Nmecha and James adding some more direct play to Leeds' attack, it was a move that paid off. Just before the goal, the former's clever pass played James clean through only for the winger to chip a cross-shot wide.

They did not have to wait much longer for their equaliser and to snatch an unlikely, and perhaps undeserved, point against a team Farke called "an unstoppable bulldozer".

TEAMS

Leeds United (3-4-2-1): J Trafford — J Rodon (N Elvedi 34min), J Bijol (A Tanaka 46), T Muharemovic — J Bogle (D James 68), E Ampadu, A Stach, J Justin — B Aaronson (H Wilson 46), N Okafor (L Nmecha 68) — D Calvert-Lewin.

Brentford (4-2-3-1): C Kelleher — M Kayode (C Wilson 88), K Ajer, N Collins, K Lewis-Potter (R Henry 88) — M Sangaré , V Janelt — J Anthony (D Ouattara 61), M Damsgaard (Y Yarmoliuk 69), K Schade (A Hickey 88) — I Thiago.
Booked Anthony, Ajer, Janelt, Collins.

Referee T Harrington.
Attendance 35,794.

Villa's post-Europe exodus and Hull's unparalleled run

Bill Edgar

1 Villa's historic break-up
Aston Villa will have seen twice as many immediate player departures from a team that had just won a continental final as any previous English club in European history. Ollie Watkins will become the sixth member of the XI that started the Europa League final against Freiburg to leave Villa Park, joining Emi Martínez, Ezri Konsa, Lucas Digne, Youri Tielemans and Morgan Rogers.

Of the 39 English winners of the various competitions before last season, as many as 23 did not lose a single player from their starting line-up in the following campaign (the measure being whether a player appeared for that same club in the league the next season). A further ten lost only one player, and five had two players depart; that leaves one team with three exits — Chelsea waving off Didier Drogba, Salomon Kalou and José Bosingwa after the 2012 Champions League final.

Also worth monitoring are Crystal Palace, last season's Conference League winners, who have sold Maxence Lacroix and, before tomorrow's transfer deadline, have doubts over the futures of several others from their XI in the final.

2 Leno in prime position for No 10 link
Bernd Leno, the Fulham goalkeeper, is the first player in league history to have recorded a run of consecutive top-division starts that have come during the tenures of five UK prime ministers. The German began his 152-game sequence in August 2022, just 17 days before Boris Johnson's departure, and has continued while Liz Truss, Rishi Sunak, Sir Keir Starmer and now Andy Burnham have been in power.

Jordan Pickford (a still unbroken run from Truss to Burnham) and James Tarkowski (Johnson to Starmer) are the only other players to have produced a sequence of successive top-flight starts that have spanned the stints of four prime ministers since the 15-month period up to January 1924, in which David Lloyd George, Bonar Law, Stanley Baldwin and Ramsay MacDonald led the country.

Phil Neal holds the record for most consecutive top-division starts, with 365 for Liverpool from December 1974 to September 1983. Then comes Brad Friedel, with 310 for Blackburn Rovers, Villa and Tottenham Hotspur from 2004; Bobby McKinlay, with 265 for Nottingham Forest from 1959; and David Armstrong, with 256 for Middlesbrough from 1974.

3 Spurs' travails continue
Tottenham have picked up only 60 points in 66 Premier League games since winning 4-0 away to the defending champions Manchester City in November 2024. In that period eight teams from outside the so-called "big six" have not only beaten Spurs' points tally, they have exceeded it by at least 50 per cent: Villa, Newcastle United, Everton, Palace, Bournemouth, Forest, Brighton & Hove Albion and Brentford.

Spurs have tried 16 different starting players this season to no avail. After defeats of 3-0 by Brentford and 2-0 by Newcastle United, they are the first side in the Premier League era to have lost each of their opening two games by at least two goals despite making as many as five changes between those matches.

Last season Wolverhampton Wanderers were the top flight's last club alphabetically and finished bottom, and this season's equivalent, Tottenham, are also bottom.

4 Player fees rocket
There are two days remaining in the transfer window and already this summer Premier League clubs have signed as many as 32 players for a fee of at least £35 million, a huge rise on a decade ago. For a fairer comparison this minimum figure of £35 million was adjusted for inflation to £24.3 million in 2015 rising to £27 million in 2019: the average number of players signed for at least those amounts in the five years from 2015 to 2019 was only 14 per summer, less than half this year's figure. This summer there have also been 60 Premier League signings for a fee of at least £20 million, yet the average from 2015-19 was only 28 per summer, again allowing for inflation.

5 Hull double is a first
Hull City's last-day climb into the play-offs followed by a perfect Premier League start are unprecedented in the play-off era, which began 40 years ago. No other teams have won their opening two top-flight fixtures having risen into the play-off spots in their final match of the previous regular season. Hull beat Norwich City in that initial game, saw off Millwall and Middlesbrough in the play-offs and have defeated Manchester United and Coventry City this term. They are also the first side to have kept clean sheets throughout a successful second-tier play-off campaign and then again in their opening two league games the next season.

6 Alonso's open opening
Chelsea's wins of 3-2 against Fulham and then 4-3 over Brighton & Hove Albion yesterday have made Xabi Alonso the first top-flight manager since 1958 to have won his opening two league games of a spell despite conceding five goals in the process. The only previous case featured Tottenham's Bill Nicholson recording victories of 10-4 over Everton and 4-3 against Leicester City.

In the space of four days, two south London clubs spent time at the top of the Championship but also lost 5-1.

Millwall were knocked off the summit by a 5-1 defeat against Southampton on Saturday, replaced by a Charlton Athletic side that had been beaten 5-1 by Tottenham in the Carabao Cup last Wednesday.

Emery is a master of overcoming his own worries, but this may be his toughest test

He's lost key players but Aston Villa boss has built his reputation on beating the odds, writes **Charlotte Duncker**

In 101 seconds at Aston Villa's Bodymoor Heath training ground before their opening fixture, Unai Emery summed up his feelings about this season with the use of one word: worried.

The 54-year-old repeated the word 15 times in response to a question about whether or not he was concerned given the nature of departures this summer. Fast-forward to 2.40pm on that Sunday afternoon and you could see why those sentiments were justified — 4-0 down and reduced to ten men against Brighton & Hove Albion.

Put into context, Emery's answer was that he is always worried, and has been since he arrived in October 2022, for various different reasons and to varying degrees. Last season he was worried when they were winless in their opening five games yet they went on to finish fourth and win a European trophy. So sometimes that worry has been misplaced, but maybe this time it seems appropriate.

That answer came before losing another three of the spine of his Europa League-winning team in Ezri Konsa, Ollie Watkins and Emiliano Martínez. Gary Neville said that Villa were having their "heart ripped out" but while there may be a bit of worry from Emery, there is certainly no feeling of panic.

The view from within the dressing room was not one of surprise that these players have left. There is an acceptance from all levels, including the squad, that it is a consequence of their success — that "bigger" clubs would come in for their players.

As they watched their team-mates head out of the door, the mood within the camp has still been one of belief. It is understood the players still remain positive despite their poor start against Brighton and the player turnover because there is inherent faith in Emery and his methods. It is not his style to lose his head and scream and shout at his players, even if they are 4-0 down at half-time. It is about thinking, planning and being better — which they must do against Arsenal tonight.

Emery is an old hand at this. He is the second-longest serving manager in the league and has seen nearly all of it before. "I have experienced this. With the changes that I'm doing here, I've done it before. In Valencia, Sevilla and even Villarreal, my experience as a coach is in the same direction as we are doing here," he said.

Even during his four years at the club he has regenerated the group after big-name players have been sold. He has been through rebuilds at his previous teams and has achieved more than many expected in his time at Villa Park, but is this his biggest challenge yet?

It is understood that there has been no complaining from Emery to the players about the difficult situation they find themselves in, only more of the same in terms of intense training sessions and detailed, lengthy meetings.

So what about the players that have left? His best player, Morgan Rogers, joined Chelsea in a £117 million deal. Manchester United triggered Youri Tielemans' £35 million release clause, Lucas Digne went back to Paris Saint-Germain for £8.5 million, Konsa departed to Arsenal for £51 million, Martínez has signed for Chelsea for £7.5 million and Watkins moved to Al-Hilal in Saudi Arabia for about £50 million. This all means that, even without the potential of a couple more smaller exits to come, Villa will have recouped more than £250 million in sales.

Added to that they have lost some of the squad's highest earners from their wage bill, which is necessary given they are still treading a very fine line with Uefa after the "significant breach" of its Squad Cost Ratio rules which led to the club being fined £19.4 million (£12.9 million of which is suspended if they act to bring it down).

The team that won the Europa League final against Freiburg in Istanbul had reached the end of a cycle. Crowning it with a trophy was the perfect way to cap it off before the launch of Aston Villa 2.0, or the "new" Villa as captain John McGinn called them, and with that the player turnover was expected.

It was Watkins' exit that surprised staff more than the others. Up until the week building up to the first game the feeling was that he was happy at Villa and ready to go again. He called McGinn after their friendly against Bayern Munich saying that he was keen to come back from his holiday early and play a part in the Super Cup against PSG.

Emery encouraged Watkins to take the full four weeks he had been granted to ensure he was fresh for the rest of the season. But in that time the 30-year-old had his head turned by a life-changing contract offer from Al-Hilal. His decision to go has not been well received by supporters and he did not help himself by training alone before the opening weekend and not being available for the Brighton game.

His apology was accepted by Emery and his team-mates and maybe once the dust settles the supporters will forgive the England international, and remember role he played at the club.

Emery, who cried when saying goodbye to Watkins, said that these exits had been sanctioned because they were in the best interests of the club. So is that the real problem here? That Villa cannot push on, despite winning a European trophy, because the financial restrictions are holding them back? Some of their business and the high wages they have given to certain players have hampered them but their work needs to be focused as much off the pitch as on it. Work is being done at Villa Park to the North Stand to increase the capacity to 50,000 and a crazy summer tour where they took in three countries in ten days and maximised their commercial opportunities will help the club in the long run.

But in the short term the hard work is down to Emery. So far nine players have arrived and there is optimism over the new faces they have got through the door.

There's excitement about the level club-record signing Johan Manzambi can reach, proven experience with Leon Goretzka and Premier League nous with João Gomes, Alejandro Garnacho and Nicolas Jackson. Established first-team players are already talking about 17-year-old Brian Madjo's potential and the impending arrival of Ibrahim Mbaye is another talent for Emery to try and get the best out of.

The Villa manager will prefer it when the transfer window is closed and he knows what he has to work with. Then that meticulous planning can go up another level.

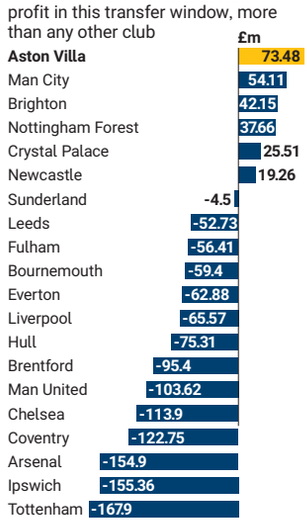
As Emery has said, he has been in this position before and made it work, so why can't he do it again?

Despite everything, you would not bet against him.

Emery has had to build a new Villa team after a summer of sales at the club

PREMIER LEAGUE NET SPEND

Aston Villa have made a £73.5million profit in this transfer window, more than any other club



Jesus set for Barcelona move as Alvarez deadline looms

Gary Jacob

Gabriel Jesus is close to a surprise £8.6 million move to Barcelona as part of Arsenal's drive to offload fringe players.

The Catalan club began talks for the 29-year-old forward in the past 24 hours but have signalled that his arrival would not impact their continued pursuit of Atletico Madrid's Julián Alvarez, who is also wanted by Arsenal.

Jesus, his fellow Brazil forward Gabriel Martinelli and midfielder Fábio Vieira are all set to leave the Premier League champions before the deadline tomorrow for a combined total of more than £66 million.

Arsenal will potentially receive bonuses but the deal falls short of the £20 million they wanted for Jesus, who earns about £250,000 a week. A proposed move to Napoli fell through over finances.

Jesus has been omitted from matchday squads and has not been training with the team recently. He has entered the final year of his contract, having scored 32 goals in 123 appearances for Arsenal since moving from Manchester City for £45 million in 2022.

Martinelli is set to move to Al-Hilal in Saudi Arabia for more than £50 million and Vieira is to rejoin Hamburg for £7.7 million after a season on loan at the German club. Vieira struggled with the physicality of English football and has made only 49 appearances for Arsenal since joining from Porto for £34.2 million in 2022. The 26-year-old also spent a season on loan at the Portuguese team.

Atletico have set a deadline for Alvarez, the Argentina forward, to decide whether he will stay or join the north London club. He returned to Atletico's training ground yesterday, doing a session on his own after missing three consecutive days of training. He was welcomed by his compatriots Cristian Romero and Juan Musso.

Arsenal have been in talks over a deal worth more than £100 million should he give the green light to return to England two years after leaving Manchester City for Spain. Alvarez has stated that his dream is a move to Barcelona and reports suggest that he has concerns about visa regulations which may create a difficulty for his wider family visiting him in England. Atletico have refused to sell to Barcelona, who bid £85 million in June.

Meanwhile, Mikel Arteta has called on the Premier League to expand squad sizes to protect player welfare and mental health.

Regulations state that 20 players can be named in a match-day squad, three fewer than in Uefa competitions (23) and six fewer than countries at the World Cup finals (26).

Managers can name nine substitutes for each league match and make five changes, but only at three intervals (plus half-time), under rules introduced for the start of the 2022-23 season.

Arteta, whose side are away to Aston Villa tonight, has 23 outfield players — potentially 24 if Alvarez joins — so may have to omit some key players from some squads.

"To tell somebody you are not even part of this match day, that's really tough," Arteta, the Arsenal manager, said. "It doesn't help anybody, doesn't help the club, doesn't help the valuation of the player. It doesn't help the player feel part of something. It is a real issue that has a simple solution.

"I've been begging the Premier League if we can extend those numbers for the welfare of the players, which is the most important thing, because every squad needs more than 20 outfield players to sustain the level of demand with games and internationals."

"I've done the research with all the top clubs in Europe. Some 90 per cent of them have more players than us."

While Martinelli and Jesus look set to depart, Ethan Nwaneri is likely to stay. The 19-year-old was omitted from the squad for the Community Shield win over Manchester City but returned to the bench for the Premier League opener against Coventry City.

Arteta said Arsenal need to be careful not to sell players who have the potential to develop, and perhaps increase revenue elsewhere.

"We have to sell what we want to sell, not just sell," he said.

Aston Villa v Arsenal

Tonight, 8pm, Sky Sports Main

Gakpo can only leave if Liverpool replace him

Paul Joyce, Gary Jacob

Cody Gakpo's proposed £85 million move from Liverpool to Manchester City remains dependent on the Anfield club signing a replacement before tomorrow's transfer deadline.

Ismaïla Sarr, the 28-year-old Crystal Palace winger, and Brighton & Hove Albion's Yankuba Minteh, 22, are two options that Liverpool have been considering.

Gakpo is ready to move to City after the impending arrival of £123 million Bradley Barcola, who underwent a medical yesterday to seal a transfer from Paris Saint-Germain that will make him the second-most expensive player in Liverpool's history.

The France international has been earmarked for a role on the left flank which is where Gakpo has spent much of his Anfield career, although he started on the right, and provided an assist for Alexander Isak, in Saturday's 2-2 draw with Nottingham Forest.

City have pushed hard for Gakpo in the days leading up to the Forest game and want to add him to their squad after the sale of Sávio to Tottenham Hotspur for £85 million. Omar Marmoush has also moved to Spurs from City on an initial loan, which could become a £60 million permanent transfer.

The Netherlands international Gakpo would face competition for a place in the wide positions at City from Jérémy Doku and Antoine Semenyo among others, but has opted for a new challenge. However, the 27-year-old must wait to see whether Liverpool are successful in recruiting a right winger, a key transfer priority since Mohamed Salah's departure.

Bids of £50 million and £60 million have been rejected by Brighton for the Gambia international Minteh, who is recovering from a leg injury sustained in pre-season and is expected to be absent until at least October.

Liverpool also made an enquiry to Palace for Sarr last week. Palace do not want to sell but there is an acceptance that every player has a price. Sarr is keen to leave Selhurst Park and would potentially be cheaper than Minteh.

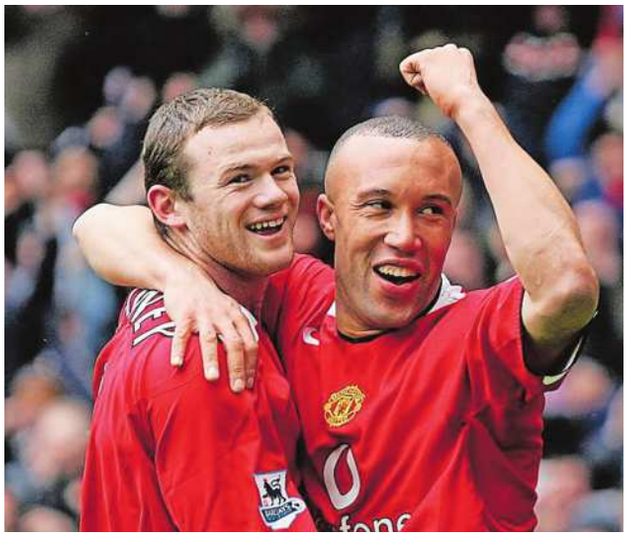
Without a replacement, Liverpool will not weaken the head coach Andoni Iraola's wide attacking options, which also include Rio Ngumoha, the summer signing Victor Muñoz and Lewis Koumas. Federico Chiesa remains at the club and although Harvey Elliott has a proposal to join Valencia on loan there has been no progress on that over the weekend.

Gakpo, signed from PSV Eindhoven for an initial £35 million in January 2023, had also been courted extensively by Tottenham Hotspur, who have now moved on to Everton's Iliman Ndiaye.

His compatriot and club captain, Virgil van Dijk, hopes his team-mate stays. "He's a quality player. I think we should keep quality players," he said last week, before the latest developments.

Liverpool have agreed a deal to sell Stefan Bajcetic, the 21-year-old midfielder, to Celta Vigo.

Elsewhere, Juventus are trying to finalise a loan deal for the Tottenham midfielder Pape Matar Sarr with an option to buy of about £26 million. The Nottingham Forest midfielder Omari Hutchinson, 22, was yesterday having a medical with a view to joining AC Milan on loan.



Silvestre celebrates a goal for United with Wayne Rooney in 2006, above. Now 49, he has spent about a decade in his role with Fifa working alongside Infantino, right. However, the former France defender, below, believes the president's job is no longer tenable

'Infantino must go – we looked away for too long'

Martyn Ziegler talks to Mikaël Silvestre, who could lose his role at Fifa after claim its president can no longer be trusted

Mikaël Silvestre reels off a list of the events that first shook his confidence in Gianni Infantino's leadership — and finally shattered his trust in the Fifa president.

Last year's Fifa Congress in Paraguay when Infantino arrived days later than planned having prioritised a Gulf visit with Donald Trump; the Fifa Peace Prize created for the US president; "insane" World Cup ticket prices; hydration breaks; unexplained decisions to lift World Cup bans for Cristiano Ronaldo and Folarin Balogun and finally, irretrievably, the World Cup sell-off plan.

Silvestre has been working with Fifa for the best part of a decade, with Arsène Wenger, on its talent development scheme as part of the Players Voice Panel which advises on anti-racism initiatives, and as one of the group of Fifa Legends, former players used to promote its events.

The former Manchester United, Arsenal and France defender says he and many others, including former players and people working within Fifa, had bitten their tongue time and again, but the final straw came after The Times had revealed Infantino's scheme to sell off 20 per cent of the World Cup to private investors led by Joshua Kushner, brother of Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Infantino has not stepped down despite calls from Uefa, the Asian Football Confederation and Concacaf, which covers north and central America and the Caribbean, and his refusal to budge has prompted Silvestre to speak out.

"It has been a culmination of things," the 49-year-old says from his home in Rome. "I started questioning the direction the leadership was taking, especially Gianni, when he came late to the [2025] congress in Paraguay. We were all waiting, it had been organised for months and everyone is travelling from all around the world and we are waiting because he is spending time with Donald Trump and Qatar and visiting Saudi.

"That was kind of an alarm. The thing that really triggered my discontent was the Peace Prize. Many of us questioned ourselves, saying are we going to put our names to this, but no one was saying anything as they are under contract. When you are supposed to be a non-political organisation and you do this type of thing it goes against the purpose of what it is supposed to represent.

"Then when you see the ticket prices for the World Cup, it's insane. People are looking forward to this tournament, it's the biggest thing every four years and they can't afford it, it's a shame.

"Then there is the red card [ban overturned] for Cristiano. He is my friend, my ex-team-mate, but the fact that it's overturned … we assumed it's to appease the sponsors and broadcasters. If you have one of the main guys, with 'Leo' Messi, not present it changes the dynamic in the conversation."

Then came the decision to lift Balogun's ban for a red card to allow him to play for the USA against Belgium after a call from Trump to Infantino, who insisted it had been made independently by the disciplinary committee.

"That was the worst so far, literally during the tournament," Silvestre says. "I spoke with many Fifa employees including at high level and everybody was shocked.

"In the aftermath, you understand what happened, a phone call from the host president to the leader of the organisation."

On July 28, The Times broke the news of the sell-off scheme, with Infantino and others in his close circle standing to personally profit.

"You broke the story and no one knew anything about it," he adds. "That was the cherry on the cake, trying to sell the World Cup to private investors who happened to be family

EVA MARIE UZCATEGUI/FIFA/GETTY IMAGES; MARK ROBINSON/NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS

to the leader of the host nation.

"There needs to be accountability and an independent inquiry. It tarnished the image on Fifa. This is too big to be brushed under the carpet. Many of us looked the other way when the Peace Prize was created. We know you have to have close relationships with host governments but to go so far as changing the referee's decision on the field, you can only think about the future, what is going to happen with the next World Cups. You open the door to something that can't happen."

Infantino, says Silvestre, needs to stand aside and Fifa needs to implement reforms including having former player representatives from the men's and women's game on its decision-making council.

"When the trust is broken that much, you can't repair it," he adds. "We have been looking the other way on too many occasions. It needs an independent inquiry otherwise people won't be at peace."

Silvestre admits that speaking out may cost him his Fifa roles, but says that he could not stay quiet any longer. "It's a shame because I had to make a choice, a sacrifice," he adds. "The work we had done with anti-racism was something I was very passionate about — let's see.

"I still would like to be involved. Some federations are in dire need of Fifa's support — the fairytale of Cape Verde couldn't have happened without Fifa's funding — but that shouldn't allow the drift going away from what Fifa should look like as an organisation. The ends do not justify the means."

De Zerbi's style is supposed to excite. This is walking football

Tony Cascarino

There's nothing that grinds my gears more than seeing top sides play walking football. I'm old enough to play that way, but a team full of prime athletes should not be performing like that. Tottenham Hotspur hired Roberto De Zerbi because of his reputation for a brave, quick and attacking style of play but his Spurs side have started this season slowly in all senses of the phrase.

On Saturday the goalkeeper Antonin Kinsky would stand over the ball, take a few touches, then pass five yards sideways to Micky van de Ven. He would pass to Jan Paul van Hecke and the ball would be moved to the full backs before the cycle repeated. Over and over again.

There is nothing wrong with passing out from the back, but it must be done with zip and conviction. Spurs were focused on moving the ball, but they were not moving Newcastle. Anthony Elanga's goal displayed the benefits of moving the ball with pace. Nico González's pass to Amar Dedic caught Andrew Robertson out of position because it sped up play and did not give the defender time to react, allowing Dedic to head down for Elanga's swivelled finish.

Half a yard is vital at the highest level of football because it gives players that extra bit of time to execute their next action, which can make all the difference.

By comparison, Tottenham's deepest midfielder, Rodrigo Bentancur, repeatedly passed sideways with no real sense of urgency as Newcastle sat in an organised block and denied Spurs spaces. Most of their opportunities came from individual moments rather than the slick passing moves De Zerbi's Brighton & Hove Albion side were known for.

Many of the Spurs fans had left before the end of their team's first home league game – an ominous sign for De Zerbi and his players

Spurs' performance against Brentford had similar issues and it is surprising considering the profiles of players they have spent nearly £400million on. Omar Marmoush and Sávio are electric and thrive when playing at pace, while Mateus Fernandes and Sandro Tonali are midfielders who provide verticality through their passing and ball-carrying. De Zerbi's side have already conceded five times in their first two matches in the Premier League season but are yet to score. They will need to find a way to move the ball into their attackers much quicker if they are to get the best from their signings.

The consequences of their stale play are not just visible on the pitch, but they can also be felt in the stands. There was a brilliant atmosphere around the ground before kick-off but as the game progressed, life was sucked out of the Spurs fans. When Yoane Wissa scored Newcastle's second, it was like a morgue.

With six minutes still remaining supporters began leaving in their numbers. Normally that comes with swearing, anger and frustration, but the most striking thing was how little resentment there seemed to be. It is as if Spurs fans have become so accustomed to seeing their team play well in patches but ultimately losing that they have become disillusioned with them. That is perhaps the biggest problem De Zerbi has to solve. Jürgen Klopp once criticised Liverpool supporters for leaving matches early because he wanted to create an environment where fans believed something could still happen late in games. Spurs do not have that belief at the moment. There are no waves of attacks, no sustained pressure and no feeling that a goal is coming once they have conceded.

The supporters cannot change that from the stands. The players have to give them something to believe in, and the manager has to give the players a system that allows them to express themselves.

De Zerbi has escaped much of the criticism so far because of the job he did last season, but he is the one responsible for the way Spurs are playing. This was supposed to be a manager who brought an exciting brand of football, but instead Spurs have started both league matches looking sluggish and unprepared while creating very little in either.

When clubs spend a lot of money, it comes with a lot of pressure. De Zerbi has been given the players to work in the system that has built his career, it is now up to him to show the backing was justified.

Report, page 10

Hull stay in comfort zone – and make most of big chances

COVENTRY CITY	0
HULL CITY Millar 82	1

Gregor Robertson
CBS Arena

Two games, two wins, two clean sheets: could Hull City be this season's surprise package?
There are 36 games left to play and it would be a stretch to say that Hull were deserving winners on Saturday, but there's no doubt that Sergej Jakirovic's side look comfortable in their own skin.

Hull's share of possession against Manchester United and Coventry City has been about 30 per cent but, their striker Oli McBurnie admitted, that's how they like it. Hull almost "incite crosses", the Coventry head coach Frank Lampard said, because their back three of Semi Ajayi, John Egan and Nobel Mendy look like they could defend their penalty box all day.

"We've seen a lot of teams who dominate the ball in the Championship come to the Premier League and try to use the same style, and it's difficult for them," McBurnie said. "We're not getting carried away. But we do feel comfortable in that shape, when we're suffering and the other team have a lot of the ball."

Six shots on target, three goals: is it sustainable?
Last season Hull took the fifth-fewest number of shots in the Sky Bet Championship, yet they were the fifth-highest scorers. That is largely because the quality of chances they created were, on average, the third-best in the division, and no team had a better shot conversion rate.

On Saturday it was easy to understand why: as Coventry grew more frustrated in the second half, Hull began to exploit the spaces they left with a quick exchange of passes or a darting forward run.

The speed and incisiveness of their transitions carved out the game's three best moves — one of which led to Liam Millar's 82nd-minute winner. No one thought it was sustainable last season but here they are, still doing their thing, in the Premier League.

Two games, two defeats, no goals: should Coventry be worried?
Lampard said football should be about "tactics" as well as "how you apply yourself" and clearly he was unhappy with how his players did the latter.

Coventry were sloppy at times and lacked spark. With last season's top goalscorer Haji Wright missing until November, it is not yet clear where their goals will come from. After losing 3-0 against the champions Arsenal on the opening night of the season, they have now had their pockets picked by the relegation favourites who finished last season with 22 fewer points in the second tier.

It gets worse before it gets better: next up, it is Manchester City at the Etihad. "We have to stay focused; this season was always going to feel very different," Lampard said.

Weak owners exposed by fans' revolt

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

Everton's owners are trying to sell Iliman Ndiaye to Tottenham Hotspur for £60 million and re-sign Richarlison for £35 million after a tumultuous 48 hours in which the threat of a fans' revolt prompted a U-turn over plans to offload their homegrown midfielder Harrison Armstrong.

Events over the weekend exposed owner The Friedkin Group's (TFG) desire to first offload players to raise funds to replenish David Moyes's squad. A £9 million deal for the Fulham right back Kenny Tete is close and Jack Grealish's return on loan from Manchester City is the subject of talks.

Yet the lurch in strategy has painted the club's American power brokers to be weak as scrutiny falls on their tenure after 20 months in charge, and raises questions as to why they are not offering greater support to Moyes.

TFG's first misstep was considering selling Armstrong, 19, to Nottingham Forest for £35 million as they sought to top up a modest budget by bringing in money for squad strengthening.

A deal was agreed and at one point it looked as if it would proceed, with Everton using club-to-club discussions to try to sign the Forest right back Ola Aina. However, the strength of feeling from Everton's supporters, who chanted during Saturday's 1-1 draw with Bournemouth that they would "riot" if Armstrong was sold, led to a climbdown on Saturday night.

TFG had promoted Armstrong, who has been in talks over a new contract, as an emblem for the club on social media earlier this year, championing his promise.

From the outset, the notion that a fee of £35 million represented good value for a player who was not sold on a move to Forest and whom Everton believe can go on to play for England felt flawed.

Where TFG has been fortunate is in finding Spurs are willing to do business. A deal has been agreed in principle at club level, although offloading Ndiaye for a deal worth up to £60 million and bringing Richarlison, who is in the final year of his contract, back for up to £35 million would point to the Londoners getting the better of the deal. It seems that making a trading profit of £25 million was the be-all and end-all of from an Everton point of view.

Richarlison was sold to Spurs for £60 million on June 30, 2022, as Everton tried to abide by the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules by sanctioning the Brazilian's exit before the new financial year. They believed at the time he was undervalued.

Richarlison has remained popular with supporters but still has to agree to a return. Everton also had a strong interest in Monaco's Folarin Balogun, the 25-year-old USA World Cup striker, who scored 19 goals for Monaco last season.

As it stands, Tottenham were easier to deal with once they targeted Ndiaye after realising a long-standing interest in Cody Gakpo would not materialise. The Liverpool winger has agreed to join Manchester City in a deal that could be worth £85 million, only if the Anfield club can sign Brighton & Hove Albion's Yankuba Minteh or Ismaïla Sarr from Crystal Palace.

Ndiaye rejected numerous contract offers last season after Everton refused to insert a buy-out clause into any new deal that could be triggered by Champions League clubs across Europe.

PAUL TERRY/SPORTIMAGE/ALAMY; SIMON STACPOOLE/OFFSIDE/GETTY IMAGES

Ndiaye, left, and Richarlison, right, are set to swap clubs, while Armstrong, inset, will stay at Everton after a fan protest

A key question is what would TFG have done to raise money had Spurs not stepped up when the Forest deal collapsed?

Everton's inability to so far sell Beto, Tim Iroegbunam, Carlos Alcaraz and Nathan Patterson created pressure to sell one of their better players and leaves Moyes's squad weakened.

The club's chief executive, Angus Kinnear, said in an interview that TFG saw the end of last season as a "failure", with Everton dropping out of European contention after not winning any of their last seven Premier League matches. Yet if qualifying for Europe is the aim, why has Moyes not had more backing?

Loan deals for Merlin Röhl and Tyrique George were made permanent for £18 million each, Hayden Hackney was recruited from Middlesbrough for £16.5 million, and Christian Norgaard was signed for £7 million from Arsenal to replace Idrissa Gueye, whose contract expired. Norgaard arrived injured and has not yet played. In addition, Brennan Johnson arrived in a straight swap from Crystal Palace with Dwight McNeil heading to Selhurst Park.

In the absence of anyone from TFG speaking publicly about the situation, Moyes had been left to tread a fine line when fielding questions on transfers. His desire for Everton to push on has led him to repeatedly stress the need for further signings. The pursuit of a right back has been especially troublesome. The collapse of the Armstrong-Forest proposal means Aina is no longer a target and with Strasbourg's Guéla Doué out of reach, attention has turned back to Fulham's Tete.

The 30-year-old was on the cusp of signing for Everton on a free transfer 12 months ago and a medical had been booked. However, he used that interest to renegotiate a deal with Fulham and opted to stay there. Everton had enquired about his team-mate, Timothy Castagne, earlier in the window, but were told he was not available.

Grealish has been linked with a return and it is clear that Manchester City do not want to keep the 30-year-old, who is in the final year of his contract. Everton paid about £12 million to cover his wages last season and have been considering bringing him back on loan, although whether he is what Moyes needs is another issue.

No points, no goals, but time for Tottenham to panic? Not yet

TOTTENHAM	**0**
NEWCASTLE UNITED Elanga 62, Wissa 72	**2**

Tom Allnutt
Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

For all the focus on Sandro Tonali and the joy of the Newcastle United fans who revelled in his misery, Tottenham Hotspur did not lose Saturday's game in central midfield.

The difference was in attack, where Spurs started with a striker they signed on Thursday, a left winger who is a work in progress, and a right winger who is a World Cup-winning right back — but still a right back. Tottenham had six shots on target and scored none. Newcastle had two shots on target and scored two. Time to panic? Not just yet.

Anthony Elanga and Yoane Wissa's two deft finishes in the second half sank Roberto De Zerbi's team, who had enough possession (58 per cent) and created enough (17 shots) to win.

But penetration has been the primary problem at Spurs for more than a year, during an attacking decline that can be traced through injuries to Xavi Simons (April), Mohammed Kudus (January), Dominic Solanke (August last year), James Maddison (July last year) and Dejan Kulusevski (May last year), and lack of suitable successor to either Son Heung-min or Harry Kane.

While £380 million has been spent on transfers mostly for defence and midfield, it was never going to be a truly effective transfer window until Tottenham could field a proper attacking trio.

On Saturday Newcastle's Elanga, Wissa and Harvey Barnes made up a superior front three to Mathys Tel, Omar Marmoush and Pedro Porro, just as Dango Ouattara, Igor Thiago and Kevin Schade carried more threat for Brentford than Tel, Richarlison and Mikey Moore did the previous week.

This should improve quickly, with Marmoush and Sávio having arrived from Manchester City while Iliman Ndiaye is set to follow from Everton.

Not every transfer can be completed in time for pre-season and in the case of Sávio, in particular, Tottenham were frustrated at the time the deal took to go through. But the delay has not only cost them points. Two opening defeats without scoring for the first time since 1974 have dampened the optimism and confidence built up over the summer while putting De Zerbi under early scrutiny.

Tottenham actually played quite well for the middle chunk of the match against Newcastle, showing signs of controlling the game and playing out from the back that were non-existent for most of last season.

Early results are an unreliable measure of longer-term trajectory, as Spurs found last season when their nearly disastrous campaign started with back-to-back wins under Thomas Frank, including away to Manchester City.

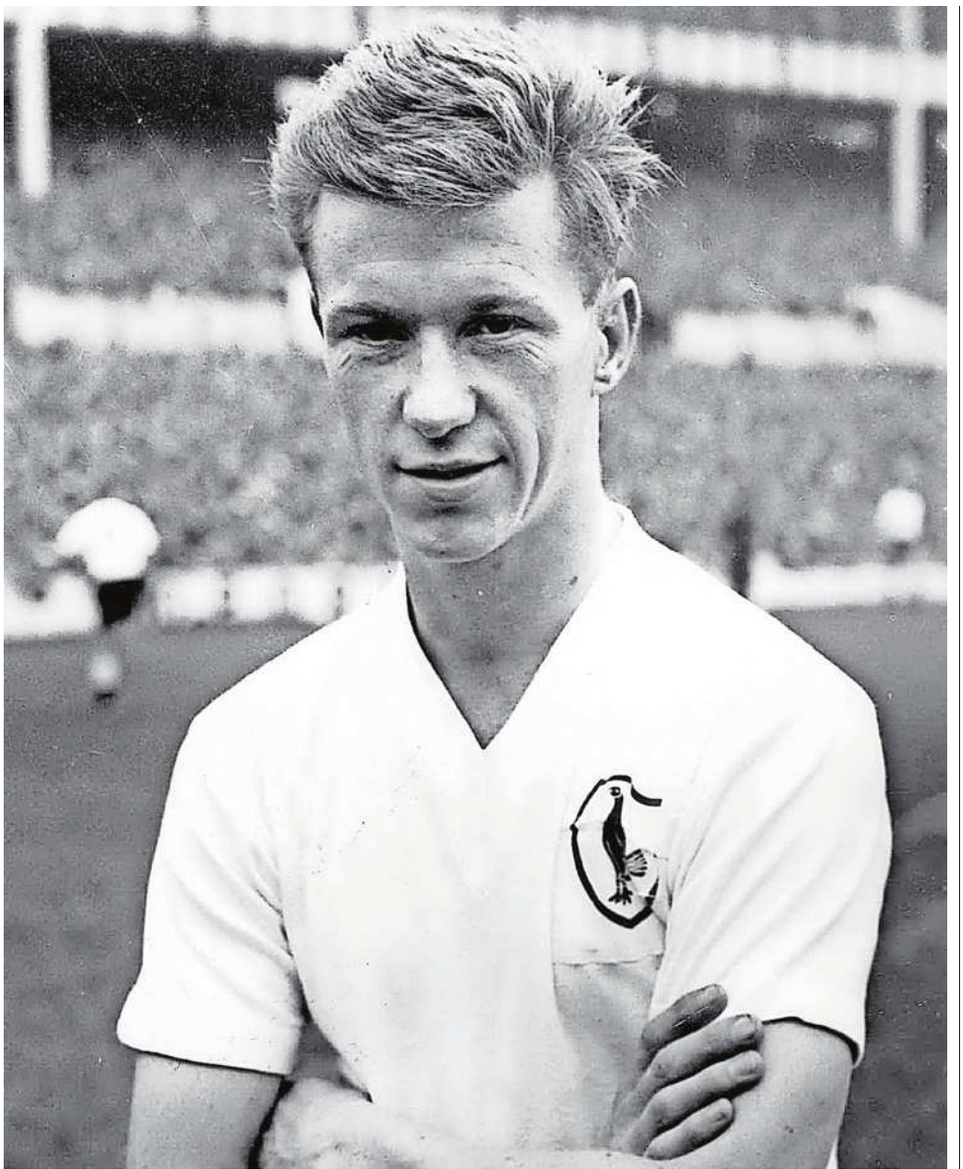
With everyone available, De Zerbi's offensive options would look very healthy with Ndiaye, Kudus and Kulusevski on the right, Sávio, Tel and Wilson Odobert on the left, Maddison and Simons at No 10, and Marmoush or Solanke up front.

Sávio would have started against Newcastle but the Brazilian's training was disrupted in his last couple of weeks at City and De Zerbi said he suffered from "muscle fatigue" on Friday. Kudus came off the bench against Newcastle for his first appearance since January. Maddison is two or three weeks away from peak fitness while Kulusevski has returned to training but, after more than a year out with a complicated knee problem, the Sweden international will be handled with care. Simons and Odobert are long-term absentees.

Marmoush made a promising debut up front against Newcastle and will offer an alternative to Solanke, whose injuries last season restricted him to 11 starts and three goals in the league.

How Spurs icon killed by lightning became family's dark, buried secret

Michael Grant on how story of John White, who died aged 27, has become subject of an Edinburgh stage play



ZUMA PRESS/SHUTTERSTOCK; CRAIG WATSON FOR THE TIMES

International John White dies on golf course

SPURS STAR KILLED BY LIGHTNING

SOCCER international John White, 26, star of the Spurs and Scottish forward lines, was killed by lightning yesterday in a storm which flailed a wide area of Southern England.

Tears

Every afternoon, a room in the centre of Edinburgh becomes Spurs territory for an hour. McEwan Hall on Bristo Square is a grand building of Italian Renaissance architecture and ornate frescoes, but the audience of mainly middle-aged men, which ambles along for a 2.55pm start, is not showing up for that. For an hour they are in N17, White Hart Lane, listening to Bill Nicholson, Danny Blanchflower, Jimmy Greaves and, above all, John White and his kid.

Outside, the Edinburgh Festival is a riot of colour and noise. Inside, *The Ghost of White Hart Lane* is a one-man show where the room is dark except for the brilliant glow from a 1960s Tottenham Hotspur shirt. In one respect the play is the story of White, the outstanding Spurs and Scotland midfielder. White was an ever-present in the 1960-61 Double season and a poster boy of further triumphs at home and in Europe. One football writer dubbed him "The Ghost" because of his elusive and intelligent movement, a will-o'-the-wisp giving opponents the slip.

It is an unbelievable nickname, given what happened on July 21, 1964. White went out to play golf in a storm at Crews Hill Golf Club in Enfield. When conditions worsened he took shelter under a tree and was struck by lightning, dying instantly. He was 27.

Looking around the Edinburgh audience on a weekday afternoon, you sense they know much of this. This is an interface between football and the theatre. As the lights go down there is chatter about Celtic's capitulation in Europe. One fella says he is a Hibernian fan. Another turns to his mate: "So, was he hit by lightning during a match?" Last week there was another Spurs icon in the audience. Steve Archibald was in Edinburgh and took in the show.

But the play is about so much more. The writer-director Martin Murphy based it on the 2011 book of the same name by sports journalist Julie Welch and Rob White, John's son, and so it explores grief, repression, identity, male mental health and Rob's longing for someone he never knew.

He was only five months old when his dad died. The hurt was buried and essentially it became a dark family secret, not to be spoken about. At home there were no pictures of White on the mantlepiece. On stage, actor Callum Lewis Newman plays both John and Rob, each of them as children and adults in a fractured timeline. A central prop is the box of White's belongings — boots, photographs, a Scotland tracksuit top — which was all Rob had of him in real life, up in the attic.

Across runs in Edinburgh and London the play has been seen by more than 5,000 people. If Rob attends, and anyone realises who he is, he is approached by audience members with an anecdote or affectionate words about his father. Each one feels like a piece building a jigsaw.

A man in his seventies came up and said: "I've been waiting to see you for 60-odd years," before handing him a picture. It showed his dad, looking every inch the footballer, eating an ice cream while surrounded by five schoolboys in blazers. The man in his seventies was one of those boys.

Everything is precious because White's story remains incomplete and foggy. Rob has a small cutting with the origin of the "Ghost" nickname but neither the newspaper nor the journalist are identified. Even the whereabouts of White's ashes are unknown, with unconfirmed suggestions that they were spread at White Hart Lane. The details are lost in the memories of deceased relatives.

Newman, right, has received acclaim among audiences in London and Edinburgh for a play that explores the life of White, above, killed aged 27 on a golf course after helping Spurs to the double. Top, a newspaper cutting about his death

Newman's performance is warm, energetic, engaging and endearing, no mean feat for an actor from Gloucestershire affecting a Scottish accent in Edinburgh. At times he is Nicholson's Yorkshire and Blanchflower's Belfast, too. "I'll post a little review online because he put his life and soul into that," says Maurice, a Chelsea fan, after the show. "I've actually played the golf course where John White was killed."

There is no museum at the new Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Nowhere for the club to properly honour White. Don't get his boy started on that. Rob drew a blank with Daniel Levy, the former executive chairman, and hopes for eventual progress under his successors. "My partner used to work as a tour guide at the stadium when it first opened and that was one of the biggest questions that people asked: where's the museum?"

He intends to reach out to Tottenham's Scotland international, Andrew Robertson, because he, too, has felt the tragedy of a high-profile footballer losing his life at the peak of his career. There are obvious parallels between the deaths of White and Diogo Jota, Robertson's close friend. While Liverpool were enormously caring after Jota's fatal car crash, the 1960s were a different time. Rob's late mother, Sandra, felt that Spurs did not show enough compassion or support for a young widow left to bring up two young children. Sandra died before the play took the story on.

The Spurs stadium staged the premiere in 2024. White's double-winning team-mate, Cliff Jones, was there along with Spurs ambassador and former defender Gary Mabbutt. So many tickets were sold that a second performance was necessary. Newman remembers it as an emotional night on the 60th anniversary of the lightning strike.

The premiere was not without a scare. There is a moment in the play when White swings a golf club at an imaginary tee. "There was a screen behind us which cost half a million pounds," Newman says. "They said, 'If you hit it with that golf club we will invoice you for it'. We had to saw down the golf club so it was half a club, just in case."

• *The Ghost of White Hart Lane*, Dairy Room, Underbelly, Bristo Square, Edinburgh. 2.55pm. Last show today

He's won over locals. Now can Gordon be Barça's next No 9?

IAN HAWKEY
ON EUROPE

England player has quickly become central to Flick's Nou Camp plan, but could find himself in new role

There's an unassigned locker in the new dressing room at the Nou Camp, where cranes still reach up into the sky and seats are yet to be bolted on to a vast upper tier. A project is still conspicuously to be completed here, though there is no mistaking the purpose and ambition surrounding a reshaped Barcelona squad and their reconstructed home. There will, the club promise, be *barcelonistas* filling that broad top level by the end of this season.

Who, if anybody, gets to hang the club's No 9 jersey in the vacant locker over the next nine months remains unclear.

The most fraught piece of desired business of the transfer window, the efforts of Barcelona to bring an eager Julián Alvarez to play in what will be western Europe's largest bespoke football stadium, hit an impasse because of Atletico's reluctance to sell to a direct domestic rival, among other factors.

So there is no No 9 — yet. Arsenal's Gabriel Jesus could be arriving shortly to join Barcelona's attempt to win a third successive Spanish league, to finesse a summer of trading geared towards repositioning the club as authentic Champions League contenders.

For all the optimism generated by two wins and seven goals from their opening five days of official competition, there is a deficit here to address. The last wearer of the No 9, Robert Lewandowski, was let go, freed to see out his late 30s in Chicago, having scored 120 goals in 193 matches for Barcelona.

His understudy and sometime partner up front, Ferran Torres, left this month, fresh from scoring the only goal in a World Cup final and 65 goals for Barcelona at a rate of one every 160-odd minutes. Between them, Lewandowski and Ferran scored 40 goals last season. Add the 14 contributed by Marcus Rashford, on loan but now back at Manchester United, and that is a substantial tier of finishing power no longer accessible to Hansi Flick.

It means the head coach has overseen auditions for the role — a false nine carousel — with ever greater intensity since his players reported back from, in many cases, long summers; ten of his most valued footballers had been kept busy at the World Cup into its last weekend.

There are two new signings for front-three roles, both of them plausible but makeshift attacking spearheads in a squad where nobody among the senior players can accurately be categorised as an orthodox centre forward.

Among the contenders is Anthony Gordon, signed from Newcastle United early in the summer and, as it stands, the most costly recruit since Barcelona's last long arm-wrestle with Atletico ended with the €120million acquisition of Antoine Griezmann. That was seven years ago, just before the debt crisis that turned Barcelona, usually among club's football's more extravagant spenders, into the scroungers and borrowers of the marketplace, the make-do-and-menders who, in fallow times, squeezed the likes of Martin Braithwaite and Memphis Depay into the No 9 jersey.

Gordon, whose fee could rise to €80 million (about £68.5 million), has made a fine start. There was one minor hiccup, missing a penalty on his home debut in a friendly against Al-Ahly.

But two assists in six minutes in the 5-0 win away to Elche on match day one of La Liga helped set up the standing ovation he heard from the Nou Camp after his first start for the club on Thursday.

Gordon, wearing No 17 and operating mostly from the left wing, had shown, in the 2-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao, enough speed, tricks and a willingness to take the initiative that by the 80th minute, when he was replaced by fellow newcomer Karim Adeyemi, a significant number of the 62,000 present were moved to rise from their seats to applaud him.

"A new idol," said La Vanguardia newspaper, reaching back more than two decades for a point of comparison.

"He's come here, it seems, in the manner of Henrik Larsson, finding his feet straight away." Larsson, the Sweden striker, joined Barcelona from Celtic in 2004 and would be fundamental, in his second season, in delivering a European Cup.

El País, meanwhile, were won over by Gordon's "lungs" and his "dynamism", El Periodico by a "hyperactive, Tasmanian Devil" of a footballer. Flick agreed: "I've seen the same things other people did. The intensity, the speed. And he's just arrived, with the potential to get better."

Gordon torments Bilbao for Barcelona, who have goals to make up from those who left after last season, including Rashford, right. However, Atletico are reluctant to sell them Alvarez, above

Flick and the club's director of sport, Deco, had put that potential under close analysis through a 2025-26 campaign that had long been assumed to be Lewandowski's last, a year where Raphinha, the first choice on the left, missed significant periods with injury, through which Rashford would prove a more than able deputy.

With succession in mind, Barça's strategists had a close look at Gordon in a trio of direct Champions League matches against them for Newcastle, and in all three meetings the England international started as a central striker. Only Kylian Mbappé and Harry Kane scored more Champions League goals than Gordon last season; his ten matched the tally of Alvarez, who was involved for longer in the

JOSEP LAGO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; SHENG CHENG/NURPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK

competition with Atletico, up to the semi-finals, whereas Gordon and Newcastle were humbled in the last 16 at the Nou Camp.

"As a No 9, you have to start the press and be a good finisher," Flick said. "We have various players who can do that."

His carousel of locum centre forwards will go through its latest whirl this evening, at home to Rayo Vallecano, an opportunity to further explore what Fermin López, Gordon, Dani Olmo or Raphinha can give the role. Or to try out the sharp acceleration of Adeyemi through the middle.

There is always the option, too, of an experiment that shifts Lamine Yamal from the right, the established launchpad for his creativity.

Hamza Abdelkarim, another teenager but one with sufficient promise that Egypt took him to the World Cup, has been promoted from Barça's intermediate ranks to the first-team squad. He best fits the definition of traditional No 9, and will, Flick promised "be given minutes on the pitch".

Abdelkarim is 18. He is in the right place. Lamine was one of four 19 year-olds in the team Flick named for the first Nou Camp fixture of Barcelona's defence of their league title, a threshold moment for Gordon, because of his ovation from the crowd but also because, as he stood to attention before kick-off, beneath the cranes, surrounded by an unusually high number of Catalan flags being waved around him, he could scarcely help notice that he is already a senior member of Flick's project.

At 25, he was, jointly with Eric García, the second-oldest player in the line-up.

Gordon may have been hired for Barcelona's long term, but he has been brought in to be adaptable and be a leader very much in the here and now.

Spluttering Stoke yet to gain single point after £28m spree

Potteries club are ready to spend even more in window, despite three defeats in three games, says **Dominic Akiboye**

Gomes scores the first of his two goals for Wolves against Stoke on Saturday

Stoke City came to Molineux carrying the expectations that come with one of the Championship's biggest transfer bills. Instead they left with another defeat, a third in three league games, that leaves them bottom of the division after a £28 million summer spending spree that has so far done little to arrest their decline.

Sam Gallagher struck from outside the penalty area after two minutes to offer Stoke the perfect start against Wolverhampton Wanderers, but their lead quickly evaporated as Rodrigo Gomes scored twice by the 23rd minute and Wolves surged. A penalty from Raúl Jiménez and Jordan James's late goal completed a 4-1 defeat to heap further misery on Mark Robins's team.

Stoke have spent heavily in an attempt to change their fortunes after a 17th-place finish last season. They have failed to finish in the top half of the Championship since their relegation from the Premier League in 2017-18, a streak that the owner, John Coates, is desperate to end.

"Pressure is there from me anyway because we want to achieve. The owner deserves it [success] 100 per cent; that's my drive," Robins, the Stoke manager, said when asked about the weight of expectation due to their spending spree.

The summer outlay has been exceeded by only Burnley, Middlesbrough and West Ham United — all teams who are hunting for promotion. Stoke have recruited extensively, with Ethan Galbraith, Milan Smit, Djibril Soumaré, Luke Graham, Svante Ingelsson and Josh Griffiths among their early arrivals. The Ipswich Town duo of George Hirst and Ben Johnson have since added further experience to the squad.

Robins confirmed that Stoke are still in the market for a left back before the transfer window closes tomorrow, with 20-year-old Luca Bombino reportedly close to signing from San Diego FC.

"The owner is just incredible, he's spent a lot of money, and I'm not talking about over time — in this window as well. But we definitely need more," Robins said

There has been evidence of a carefully planned approach from Stoke. Ian Torrance was appointed as the club's head of recruitment last year with a brief to develop a more sophisticated operation, and Stoke's summer has involved significant investment in younger players with potential resale value as well as established Championship players.

Torrance previously worked at Southampton for 13 years before moving to the Italian club Como in 2024, after they were promoted to Serie A.

Four of the new players Galbraith, Soumaré, Hirst and Johnson started against Wolves, but none were able to impose themselves on the match. Galbraith, the most expensive of Stoke's signings, cost £10 million from Swansea City and has shown flashes of quality in midfield since joining. He has been partnered with both of the other midfield reinforcements, Soumaré and Ingelsson, but neither pairing has yet been able to establish control over matches.

"That is something that we need to sort out pretty quickly, because we brought players in who, supposedly, can win tackles and win challenges and be more physical," Robins said of Stoke's defensive frailties.

Hirst, who cost an initial £6 million that could rise to £10 million, is yet to score for his new club and missed the penalty against Hull City that led to their elimination from the Carabao Cup last week.

Robins, however, insists that his players do not need time to bed in, and it is about getting them to show their quality on the pitch more consistently.

"I'm saying to my staff that we're almost really good," Robins said. "It sounds ridiculous, because we are not very good in certain moments that stop you from being really good. However almost good we've been, we're still conceding too many goals."

For all the money Stoke have spent, Robins knows that improvement cannot remain theoretical for much longer. The defeats have exposed a team still searching for cohesion and, more urgently, defensive solidity, while the scale of the investment means patience is unlikely to be unlimited.

Coates has given his manager the resources to reshape the squad; now Robins must show that the gamble can produce results. Three games into the season, Stoke are still waiting for the transformation their spending was supposed to deliver.

Bromley and Luton take a pummelling

Dominic Akiboye

Sheffield Wednesday produced the performance of the weekend in League One as Henrik Pedersen's side demolished Bromley 7-2 at Hillsborough.

Wednesday, who were relegated from the Championship last season and are still rebuilding after a summer takeover, were three goals ahead by half-time and continued their onslaught after the interval.

Callum Slattery opened the scoring in the seventh minute before Mason Burstow doubled the advantage, with Jamal Lowe making it 3-0. Louie Barry then scored twice in four minutes after half-time, Lowe added his second, and Gabriel Otegbayo headed a seventh. Bromley's Victor Adeboyejo and an Otegbayo own goal provided scant late consolation.

Pedersen was particularly pleased with the intensity of his players, rather than simply the scoreline. "We were strong in the duels, we were strong in the second ball, we were strong in the fight in the second ball," he said.

The head coach said Wednesday showed a "big hunger" after half-time to keep attacking, although he was unhappy with the final stages after Bromley scored twice in the closing minutes.

For a club seeking an immediate response to relegation, the result was emphatic. Wednesday moved on to six points from three games and have now scored nine times in the league. Pedersen also confirmed that the club remains active in the transfer market with the deadline approaching, suggesting the rebuilding process is not yet complete.

Luton Town suffered their first League One defeat this season as **Mansfield Town** ran riot in a 5-2 victory at the One Call Stadium yesterday.

Nathan Moriah-Welsh scored twice inside the opening half-hour before Louis Reed made it 3-0 on the stroke of half-time. Jonathan Russell then struck twice in the first 11 minutes of the second half to put Mansfield five goals clear. Nahki Wells scored twice late on, but Jack Wilshere's team had already been blown away — despite enjoying 59 per cent possession.

In League Two, **Walsall** survived a late scare to beat **Accrington Stanley** 3-2 and move on to seven points from their opening three matches. Reece Smith opened the scoring before Harrison Burke restored their lead just before half-time after Josh Woods has equalised for the away team, and Aaron Pressley added a third early in the second half. Accrington pulled one back through Stefan Mols, but Walsall held on to remain among the early pacesetters alongside **Barnet**, who drew 2-2 at home to **Cheltenham Town**, and **York City** — last season's National League champions — who beat **Exeter City** 2-1.

TheGame

Results and fixtures

PREMIER LEAGUE

Bournemouth (1) **1** — **Everton** (0) **1**
Scott 41
11,135
Tarkowski 90+1

Chelsea (3) **4** — **Brighton** (1) **3**
Lavia 4
Neto 14
João Pedro 32
Palmer 74
Yalcouyé 35
João Pedro 63 (og)
Gross 90+6

Coventry (0) **0** — **Hull** (0) **1**
31,239
Millar 82

Leeds (0) **1** — **Brentford** (1) **1**
Calvert-Lewin 79
35,974
Schade 41

Liverpool (0) **2** — **Nottm Forest** (1) **2**
Isak 60
Muñoz 82
60,415
Ndoye 24
Gibbs-White 70 (pen)

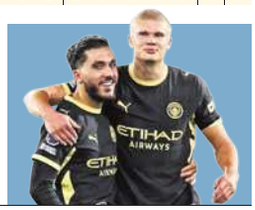
Man United (1) **5** — **Ipswich** (1) **2**
Fernandes
40, 61 (pen), 68
Greaves 56 (og)
Mbeumo 82
Davis 29
Akpom 90+1
74,148

Sunderland (0) **1** — **Fulham** (0) **0**
Isidor 75
46,781

Tottenham (0) **0** — **Newcastle** (0) **2**
61,025
Elanga 62
Wissa 72

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▲ 1 Manchester City	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	4	1	4	6
▲ 2 Hull	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	6
▲ 3 Chelsea	2	1	0	0	4	3	1	0	0	3	2	2	6
▼ 4 Brentford	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	4
▲ 5 Newcastle	2	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	4
▼ 6 Everton	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	4
▲ 7 Leeds	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	4
▼ 8 Brighton	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	3	4	3	3
▼ 9 Arsenal	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
▲ 10 Manchester United	2	1	0	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	3
▲ 11 Sunderland	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	3
▼ 12 Ipswich	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	5	-2	3
▼ 13 Liverpool	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	2
▼ 14 Bournemouth	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	1
▶ 15 Nottingham Forest	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	-1	1
▼ 16 Fulham	2	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	1	-2	0
▲ 17 Aston Villa	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
▶ 18 Coventry	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	-4	0
▼ 19 Crystal Palace	2	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	1	0	2	-5	0
▼ 20 Tottenham	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	-5	0

TOP SCORERS
3 Fernandes (Manchester Utd)
2 Cherki (Manchester City), pictured
2 Elanga (Newcastle)
2 Haaland (Manchester City), pictured
2 Hinshelwood (Brighton)
2 João Pedro (Chelsea)
2 Palmer (Chelsea)
1 Ajayi (Hull)
1 Akpom (Ipswich)
1 Angulo (Sunderland)
1 Barry (Everton)
*38 other players have scored 1 goal



SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

Blackburn (0) **1** — **QPR** (0) **2**
Morishita 49
12,905
Smyth 51
Dunne 74

Bolton (0) **0** — **Lincoln City** (0) **1**
21,581
House 66

Bristol City (1) **2** — **Portsmouth** (0) **1**
Tolaj 31
Knight 56
Milovanovic 90+5 (pen)
24,134

Cardiff (2) **2** — **Sheffield Utd** (2) **2**
Moylan 2
Ashford 38
21,036
Cannon 4 (pen)
O'Hare 7

Charlton (0) **1** — **Preston** (0) **0**
Grant 56
17,256

Derby (0) **0** — **Swansea** (2) **3**
26,576
Opoku 2, Eom 44
Pereira Martins 90+1

Middlesbro (0) **3** — **West Brom** (0) **1**
Lankshear 48, 73
Jones 87
Morgan 65
29,571

Norwich (3) **4** — **Burnley** (1) **1**
Touré 2, 21
Brooks 5, 67
Laurent 27
25,498
Sent off: Laurent (Burnley) 77

Southampton (2) **5** — **Millwall** (1) **1**
Larin 25, 62
Azaz 38
Scienza 55 (pen)
Fellows 86
Sykes 15
29,167

Watford (1) **1** — **West Ham** (1) **1**
Nabizada 19
20,976
Pollock 27 (og)

Wolves (2) **4** — **Stoke** (1) **1**
Martins Gomes 19, 22
Jiménez 55 (pen)
James 84
Gallagher 2
30,334

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▲ 1 Charlton	3	2	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	9
▲ 2 Wolves	3	1	1	0	6	3	1	0	0	3	1	5	7
▲ 3 Swansea	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	1	4	7
▲ 4 QPR	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	2	3	7
▲ 5 Middlesbrough	3	2	0	0	5	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	6
▼ 6 Millwall	3	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	3	5	1	6
▼ 7 West Brom	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	3	4	1	6
▲ 8 Birmingham	3	0	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	5
▼ 9 Watford	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	5
▼ 10 Blackburn	3	1	0	1	3	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	4
▼ 11 Bolton	3	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
▲ 12 Bristol City	3	1	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	2	2	-1	4
▼ 13 Cardiff	3	0	2	0	3	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	3
▲ 14 Sheffield United	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	3
▼ 15 Portsmouth	3	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	1	4	3	-1	3
▲ 16 Norwich	3	1	0	1	5	3	0	0	1	0	3	-1	3
▲ 17 Lincoln City	3	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	1	2	2	-2	3
▲ 18 Southampton*	3	2	0	0	8	2	0	0	1	1	2	5	2
▼ 19 West Ham	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	3	3	-1	2
▼ 20 Wrexham	3	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	0	1	1	-1	2
▼ 21 Derby	3	0	1	1	2	5	0	0	1	1	2	-4	1
▼ 22 Burnley	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	7	-5	1
▼ 23 Preston	3	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	2	1	3	-4	0
▼ 24 Stoke	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	7	-6	0

*deducted 4pts for breaching league rules

TOP SCORERS
4 Lankshear (Middlebrough)
4 Larin (Southampton), pictured
2 Arconte (Millwall)
2 Ashford (Cardiff)
2 Brooks (Norwich)
2 Campbell (Charlton)
2 Chair (QPR)
2 Coburn (Millwall)
2 Flemming (Burnley)
2 Gudjohnsen (Blackburn)
2 Jiménez (Wolves)
*nine other players have scored 2 goals

Wilson Isidor scores the only goal of the game at the Stadium of Light as Sunderland picked up their

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

AFC Wimbledon (0) **1** — **Wigan** (0) **0**
Hippolyte 88
7,304

Blackpool (2) **4** — **Peterborough** (0) **0**
Williams 19
Charles 20
Anderson 56
Yates 72
9,327

Cambridge U (0) **1** — **Huddersfield** (0) **2**
Bradshaw 80
7,041
Taylor 82, 89 (pen)

Leyton Orient (0) **1** — **Barnsley** (1) **3**
Oyekunle 85
Kirk 15
McGeehan 64 (pen)
Cleary 76

MK Dons (0) **0** — **Leicester** (0) **0**
16,198

Mansfield (3) **5** — **Luton** (0) **2**
Moriah-Welsh 17, 28
Reed 45
Russell 47, 56
Wells 78 (pen), 90+2

Notts County (0) **2** — **Burton Albion** (1) **1**
Smyth 78, 84 (pen)
Sent off: Tilt (Burton Albion) 83
Delap 22

Plymouth (1) **2** — **Bradford** (0) **0**
Pleguezuelo 44
White 50
15,494

Sheffield Wed (3) **7** — **Bromley** (0) **2**
Slattery 7, Burstow 31
Lowe 45, 73
Barry 46, 49
Otegbayo 81
Adeboyejo 85 (pen)
Otegbayo 87 (og)
30,006

Stevenage (0) **2** — **Doncaster** (0) **2**
Magennis 57
Sanderson 82
Senior 70, Bailey 80
3,139

Stockport (2) **5** — **Wycombe** (1) **1**
Wood 16, 23
Wootton 56
Diamond 61, Mandron 89
Woodrow 43
8,774

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▲ 1 Blackpool	3	1	1	0	5	1	1	0	0	2	1	5	7
▶ 2 Huddersfield	3	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	3	2	4	7
▲ 3 Stockport	3	1	0	1	6	3	1	0	0	3	1	5	6
▲ 4 Sheffield Wednesday	3	1	0	1	7	3	1	0	0	2	1	5	6
▲ 5 Mansfield	3	2	0	0	7	3	0	0	1	1	2	3	6
▼ 6 Bradford City	3	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	6
▲ 7 Notts County	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	2	2	1	5
▼ 8 Oxford Utd	2	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	4
▲ 9 Barnsley	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	1	1	4
▼ 10 Cambridge Utd	3	1	0	1	4	4	0	1	0	1	1	0	4
▼ 11 Burton Albion	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	3	0	4
▲ 12 Plymouth	3	1	0	1	3	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	4
▼ 13 Luton	3	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	6	8	-2	4
▲ 14 AFC Wimbledon	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	-2	4
▼ 15 Bromley	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	7	-4	4
▼ 16 MK Dons	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	3
▼ 17 Leyton Orient	3	0	0	2	2	5	1	0	0	2	0	-1	3
▼ 18 Peterborough	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	6	-5	3
▶ 19 Stevenage	3	0	1	1	3	4	0	1	0	1	1	-1	2
▶ 20 Doncaster	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	4	-1	2
▼ 21 Leicester	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	-1	2
▼ 22 Wycombe	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	6	-4	2
▼ 23 Reading	2	0	0	1	3	4	0	1	0	0	0	-1	1
▶ 24 Wigan	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	4	-4	0

TOP SCORERS
3 Adeboyejo (Bromley)
3 Lowe (Sheffield Wednesday), pictured
3 Marriott (Reading)
3 Taylor (Huddersfield)
3 Wells (Luton)
2 Barry (Sheffield Wednesday)
2 Collins (MK Dons)
2 Diamond (Stockport)
2 Mandron (Stockport)
2 Moriah-Welsh (Mansfield)
2 Palmer (Luton)
*nine other players have score 2 goals

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

Barnet (1) **2** — **Cheltenham** (0) **2**
Lakin 11
Tshimanga 78 (pen)
Broom 60
McCann 64

Colchester (0) **1** — **Rochdale** (0) **0**
Williams 87
4,683

Crawley (0) **0** — **Bristol Rovers** (2) **2**
4,120
James 23
Kamwa 41

Gillingham (1) **1** — **Northampton** (1) **1**
McManus 7
5,701
Briggs 36

Grimsby (1) **2** — **Fleetwood** (1) **2**
Doyle 37
Cook 64
7,067
Davies 6
Potter 69

Newport Co (1) **2** — **Tranmere** (0) **2**
Gwengwe 11, 90
4,606
Okoro 71
Jones 75

Oldham (1) **3** — **Swindon** (0) **0**
Nevitt 41
Kavanagh 84 (pen)
Fondop 90+5

Port Vale (0) **0** — **Crewe** (0) **0**
8,997

Rotherham (1) **2** — **Chesterfield** (0) **1**
Tavares Desidério 12
Mullin 90
Mandeville 88 (pen)
9,391

Shrewsbury (0) **1** — **Salford** (0) **0**
Boyle 74

Walsall (2) **3** — **Accrington** (1) **2**
Smith 8
Burke 45+6
Pressley 53
Woods 12
Mols 57

York (1) **2** — **Exeter** (0) **1**
Newby 7
Malcolm 76
Fitzwater 90+1

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▶ 1 Barnet	3	1	1	0	5	3	1	0	0	3	1	4	7
▲ 2 Walsall	3	1	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	3	0	4	7
▲ 3 York	3	2	0	0	5	3	0	1	0	1	1	2	7
▲ 4 Colchester	3	2	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	7
▼ 5 Crewe	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	7
▲ 6 Oldham	3	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	6
▲ 7 Bristol Rovers	3	1	0	0	5	3	1	0	1	4	3	3	6
▼ 8 Tranmere	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	3	2	5
▼ 9 Fleetwood	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	2	1	5
▼ 10 Grimsby Town	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
▶ 11 Newport County	3	1	1	0	5	2	0	0	1	3	5	1	4
▲ 12 Cheltenham	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	3	4	0	4
▲ 13 Rotherham	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	4
▼ 14 Swindon	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	3	-2	4
▼ 15 Exeter	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	3
▶ 16 Chesterfield	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	-1	3
▼ 17 Crawley	3	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	-2	3
▲ 18 Shrewsbury	3	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	2	-3	3
▼ 19 Northampton	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	-1	2
▶ 20 Port Vale	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	2
▶ 21 Gillingham	3	0	1	1	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	-3	2
▼ 22 Accrington Stanley	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	1
▼ 23 Salford	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	4	-4	0
▼ 24 Rochdale	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	4	-5	0

TOP SCORERS
4 Gwengwe (Newport County), pictured
3 Kavanagh (Oldham)
3 Lakin (Barnet)
3 Newby (York)
2 Boyes (York)
2 Broom (Cheltenham)
2 Caton (Accrington)
2 Cavegn (Bristol Rovers)
2 Fitzwater (Exeter)
2 Kanwa (Bristol Rovers)
2 March (Crewe)
*three other players have scored 2 goals

OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA

first points of the season by defeating Fulham. His previous goal was for Haiti during the World Cup

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sutton Utd	4	4	0	0	7	1	6	12
Boreham Wood	4	3	1	0	11	5	6	10
Southend	4	3	0	1	8	5	3	9
Hornchurch	4	3	0	1	7	5	2	9
Eastleigh	4	3	0	1	6	4	2	9
Yeovil	4	2	2	0	7	3	4	8
Harrogate	4	2	1	1	11	8	3	7
Fylde	4	2	1	1	8	6	2	7
Aldershot	4	2	1	1	5	3	2	7
Kidderminster	4	2	1	1	5	5	0	7
Boston Utd	4	2	0	2	4	3	1	6
Hartlepool	4	2	0	2	4	3	1	6
Worthing	4	2	0	2	7	7	0	6
Forest Green	4	2	0	2	5	8	-3	6
Carlisle	4	1	2	1	8	6	2	5
Scunthorpe	4	1	1	2	6	6	0	4
Tamworth	4	1	1	2	8	11	-3	4
Halifax	4	1	0	3	8	9	-1	3
Altrincham	4	1	0	3	3	6	-3	3
Gateshead	4	1	0	3	3	6	-3	3
Woking	4	1	0	3	3	8	-5	3
Wealdstone	4	0	2	2	4	7	-3	2
Barrow	4	0	1	3	4	8	-4	1
Solihull Moors	4	0	0	4	4	13	-9	0

Today (3.0): Boston Utd v Hornchurch; Carlisle v Scunthorpe; Eastleigh v Aldershot; Forest Green v Altrincham; Harrogate v Gateshead; Kidderminster v Barrow; Solihull Moors v AFC Fylde; Sutton Utd v Wealdstone; Woking v Southend; Worthing v Boreham Wood; Yeovil v Tamworth. **Tomorrow** Halifax v Hartlepool (7.45).

TOP SCORERS

8 Rush (Boreham Wood)
4 Abrahams (Carlisle)
3 Bunker (Aldershot)
3 Broad (AFC Fylde)
3 Donnelly (Tamworth)
3 Gilsenan (Halifax)
3 Kizzi (Hornchurch)
3 McCormick (Yeovil)
3 Wakeling (Solihull)

NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Hebburn	5	4	1	0	11	5	6	13
Chester	5	4	1	0	7	2	5	13
Macclesfield	5	4	1	0	7	3	4	13
Hereford	5	3	1	1	9	3	6	10
Oxford City	5	3	1	1	9	5	4	10
South Shields	4	3	1	0	5	2	3	10
Scarborough	5	3	0	2	13	7	6	9
Harborough	5	2	2	1	8	6	2	8
Spalding	5	2	1	2	5	3	2	7
Chorley	5	2	1	2	7	6	1	7
Buxton	5	2	1	2	8	8	0	7
Merthyr Town	5	1	3	1	7	6	1	6
Marine	5	2	0	3	6	5	1	6
Bedford	5	2	0	3	8	10	-2	6
Worksop	5	2	0	3	5	9	-4	6
Hednesford	5	1	2	2	8	10	-2	5
Southport	5	1	2	2	9	12	-3	5
Brackley	4	1	1	2	4	6	-2	4
Morecambe	5	1	1	3	4	6	-2	4
King's Lynn	5	1	1	3	6	11	-5	4
Spennymoor	5	1	1	3	5	12	-7	4
Darlington	5	1	0	4	7	11	-4	3
Radcliffe	5	1	0	4	3	10	-7	3
AFC Telford	5	0	2	3	6	9	-3	2

Bedford 3 Spennymoor 1; Brackley Town A South Shields A; Darlington 1 Macclesfield 2; Hebburn 4 King's Lynn 2; Hereford 1 Chester 1; Marine 2 Radcliffe 0; Merthyr Town 1 Chorley 1; Scarborough 5 Southport 1; Spalding 3 Worksop 1.

TOP SCORERS

5 Cybulski (Spalding)
3 Iwunze (Hereford)
3 Pollock (Oxford City)
2 Assombalonga (Harborough)
2 Burgess (Southport)
2 Evans (Bedford)
2 Harratt (Worksop)
2 Hull (Scarborough)
2 Maddox (Merthyr Town)
2 McLaughlin (Darlington)

NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Dagenham & R	5	4	0	1	7	4	3	12
Weston-s-Mare	5	3	1	1	11	4	7	10
Truro	4	3	1	0	7	0	7	10
Maidstone	5	3	1	1	10	6	4	10
Folkestone	4	2	2	0	9	3	6	8
Horsham	5	2	2	1	6	4	2	8
Dorking	5	2	1	2	9	5	4	7
Billericay	4	2	1	1	8	5	3	7
Tonbridge	5	2	1	2	8	6	2	7
Dover	5	2	1	2	11	11	0	7
H Hempstead	5	2	1	2	6	6	0	7
Farnborough	4	2	1	1	4	4	0	7
Chesham	5	2	0	3	8	7	1	6
Chelmsford	4	1	3	0	3	2	1	6
Torquay	5	1	3	1	4	5	-1	6
Farnham	5	2	0	3	6	8	-2	6
AFC Totton	4	2	0	2	2	7	-5	6
Maidenhead	5	1	2	2	2	4	-2	5
Salisbury	4	1	1	2	7	4	3	4
Braintree	4	1	1	2	7	11	-4	4
Hampton & R	5	1	1	3	6	14	-8	4
Ebbsfleet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slough	4	0	0	4	6	13	-7	0
Walton & H	5	0	0	5	2	16	-14	0

AFC Totton 0 Chesham 4; Billericay 2 Tonbridge 2; Chelmsford 1 Maidenhead 0; Dover 3 Braintree 3; Hemel Hempstead Town 1 Weston-super-Mare 3; Horsham 1 Farnham 2; Maidstone 2 Salisbury 1; Slough 0 Folkestone 2; Torquay 1 Hampton & Richmond 1; Truro 3 Dagenham & Redbridge 0; Walton & Hersham 1 Dorking 4.

TOP SCORERS

4 Tanga (Tonbridge)
3 Bartolo (Salisbury)
3 Lokko (Folkestone)
2 Ash (Weston-super-Mare)
2 Bonne (Billericay)
2 Charles (Maidstone)
2 Evans (Farnham)
2 Fernandez (Hampton & Richmond)
2 Pigott (Folkestone)
2 Rodari (Dagenham & Redbridge)

WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic	3	3	0	0	8	2	6	9
St Mirren	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
Hearts	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
Dundee	4	2	0	2	5	3	2	6
Hibernian	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	6
Motherwell	3	1	2	0	5	4	1	5
Rangers	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Dundee Utd	4	1	1	2	5	7	-2	4
St Johnstone	3	1	0	2	5	6	-1	3
Aberdeen	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3
Falkirk	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	1
Kilmarnock	3	0	0	3	4	13	-9	0

Aberdeen (0) **0** — **Rangers** (0) **1**
18,343 — Shankland 69 (pen)

Celtic (2) **2** — **Falkirk** (0) **1**
Durán 4, 29 — Donovan 72 (og)

Dundee (0) **1** — **Hibernian** (1) **2**
Westley 83 — Boyle 25
6,534 — Wright 61

Hearts (2) **2** — **St Johnstone** (0) **1**
Wilson 9 — Paton 48
Alic 39 (og) — 18,714

Kilmarnock (0) **0** — **Dundee Utd** (3) **4**
5,389 — Agyei 12
Sapsford 36 (pen)
Ferry 41, Randall 77

St Mirren (3) **3** — **Motherwell** (2) **3**
Nsio 39, John 44 — Maswanhise 2
Ramos 45+4 — Charles-Cook 24
5,295 — Kanga 90+3

WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Stenhousemuir	4	3	1	0	8	2	6	10
Partick	4	2	2	0	4	1	3	8
Raith Rovers	4	2	1	1	5	3	2	7
Arbroath	4	2	1	1	3	3	0	7
Livingston	4	2	0	2	4	3	1	6
Ayr	4	1	2	1	4	4	0	5
Dunfermline	4	1	2	1	2	3	-1	5
Inverness CT	4	0	3	1	2	4	-2	3
Morton	4	0	1	3	2	6	-4	1
Queen's Park	4	0	1	3	1	6	-5	1

Arbroath (0) **1** — **Livingston** (0) **0**
Reilly 48 (pen) — 1,624
Sent off: MacPherson (Livingston) 44, Constable (Arbroath) 85

Ayr (1) **1** — **Morton** (0) **1**
Murphy 44 (pen) — Brophy 63
2,174

Partick (0) **0** — **Queen's Park** (0) **0**
3,911

Stenhousemuir (1) **3** — **Inverness CT** (0) **1**
O'Donnell 23, 50 — Sole 52
Young 57

LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Hamilton	5	4	1	0	11	0	11	13
Ross County	4	4	0	0	10	2	8	12
Alloa	5	2	2	1	6	2	4	8
East Kilbride	5	2	1	2	9	9	0	7
Peterhead	5	2	1	2	4	6	-2	7
East Fife	5	1	3	1	3	2	1	6
Montrose	5	2	0	3	6	11	-5	6
Cove	5	1	1	3	3	6	-3	4
Airdrieonians	5	0	3	2	2	8	-6	3
Queen of South	4	0	0	4	2	10	-8	0

Airdrieonians (0) **0** — **East Fife** (0) **0**
996

Alloa (1) **1** — **Peterhead** (0) **1**
Marchant 45+1 — Ross 55
559

Hamilton (1) **1** — **Cove** (0) **0**
Ryan 16 — 812

Montrose (1) **2** — **Queen of South** (0) **1**
Oliver 3, 54 (pen) — Clark 49
561

Ross County (1) **4** — **East Kilbride** (0) **0**
Graham 45+1, 72
McCarvel 48, Lindsay 51

LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Elgin	5	3	2	0	17	5	12	11
Clyde	5	3	1	1	11	6	5	10
Forfar	5	2	2	1	6	5	1	8
Stranraer	5	2	1	2	6	6	0	7
The Spartans	5	1	3	1	12	11	1	6
Annan	5	2	0	3	6	7	-1	6
Kelty	5	2	0	3	7	10	-3	6
Stirling Albion	5	1	1	3	6	12	-6	4
Edinburgh City	5	2	2	1	7	8	-1	3
Dumbarton	5	1	0	4	2	10	-8	3

Annan (0) **2** — **Dumbarton** (0) **0**
Gibson 57 (pen) — 302
Watson 68

Elgin (2) **4** — **Stirling Albion** (0) **0**
Girvan 28
Gallagher 39
Colloty 60, Brown 78

Stranraer (2) **2** — **Kelty** (0) **0**
Dobbie 21, 37 — 454

The Spartans (0) **3** — **Clyde** (1) **3**
Dinanga 69 — Williamson 29, 54 (pen)
Mudie 79 — Connell 58
Sonkur 88 — 434
Sent off: Dunachie (Clyde) 60

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

Next fixtures

Friday London City v Manchester Utd (7.0).

Saturday Chelsea v Aston Villa (12.30).

Sunday Brighton v Arsenal (12.0); Charlton v Liverpool (2.0); Crystal Palace v Everton (2.0); Manchester City v Birmingham (2.30); Tottenham v West Ham (12.0).

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE 2

Next fixtures

Friday Watford v Burnley (7.30).

Sunday (2.0 unless stated): Durham v Southampton (12.0); Ipswich v Nottingham Forest; Newcastle v Wolverhampton; Sheffield Utd v Leicester; Sunderland v Bristol City.

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AZ Alkmaar	4	4	0	0	13	3	10	12
PSV Eindhoven	4	3	1	0	15	5	10	10
Feyenoord	4	2	2	0	10	6	4	8
Ajax	3	2	1	0	8	2	6	7
Go Ahead Eagles	4	2	1	1	11	9	2	7
Fortuna Sittard	4	2	1	1	8	7	1	7
NEC Nijmegen	3	2	0	1	8	4	4	6
Excelsior	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
Twente	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
Groningen	4	2	0	2	9	10	-1	6
Heerenveen	4	1	2	1	5	6	-1	5
Sparta Rotterdam	4	1	1	2	7	7	0	4
Telstar	3	1	0	2	3	8	-5	3
PEC Zwolle	4	1	0	3	4	8	-4	3
Willem II Tilburg	3	0	1	2	4	10	-6	1
ADO Den Haag	4	0	1	3	4	11	-7	1
Utrecht	4	0	1	3	6	15	-9	1
Cambuur	4	0	0	4	4	16	-12	0

AZ Alkmaar 5 Go Ahead Eagles 2; Cambuur 1 Twente 4; Excelsior 2 Sparta Rotterdam 1; Feyenoord 2 ADO Den Haag 2; PEC Zwolle 1 NEC Nijmegen 3; Telstar 0 Ajax 4; Utrecht 1 PSV Eindhoven 6; Willem II Tilburg 2 Heerenveen 2.

FRENCH LIGUE 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Monaco	2	2	0	0	3	0	3	6
Paris FC	2	1	1	0	3	0	3	4
Lille	2	1	1	0	4	2	2	4
Lyon	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
Rennes	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	4
Troyes	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
Lens	2	1	0	1	6	4	2	3
Marseille	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	3
Angers	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
Strasbourg	2	1	0	1	2	5	-3	3
Brest	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
PSG	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
Le Mans	2	0	1	1	4	5	-1	1
Lorient	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
Le Havre	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
Toulouse	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1
Nice	2	0	1	1	0	3	-3	1
Auxerre	2	0	0	2	3	8	-5	0

Auxerre 1 Angers 3; Brest 2 Toulouse 2; Lorient 1 Troyes 2; Lyon 1 Le Havre 1; Monaco 2 Marseille 0; Paris FC 3 Nice 0; Rennes 3 Le Mans 2; Strasbourg 2 Lens 1.

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bayern Munich	1	1	0	0	5	1	4	3
Freiburg	1	1	0	0	4	1	3	3
RB Leipzig	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
Augsburg	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
B Dortmund	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Cologne	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
Elversberg	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
Union Berlin	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1
E Frankfurt	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1
Paderborn	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mainz	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hoffenheim	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
B Leverkusen	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
Hamburg	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Werder Bremen	1	0	0	1	1	4	-3	0
Schalke	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
B M'gladbach	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
Stuttgart	1	0	0	1	1	5	-4	0

Augsburg 3 Schalke 0; Borussia Dortmund 2 Hamburg 0; Cologne 3 Hoffenheim 2; Elversberg 3 Bayer Leverkusen 2; Freiburg 4 Werder Bremen 1; Mainz 0 Paderborn 0; RB Leipzig 3 Borussia M'gladbach 0; Union Berlin 3 Eintracht Frankfurt 3.

ITALIAN SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Inter Milan	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6
AC Milan	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
Juventus	2	2	0	0	3	0	3	6
Lazio	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	6
Udinese	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
Como	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
Roma	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
Lecce	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Atalanta	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Frosinone	2	1	0	1	3	1	2	3
Napoli	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
Sassuolo	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
Cagliari	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	3
Bologna	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Torino	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
Genoa	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0
Parma	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0
Monza	2	0	0	2	3	7	-4	0
Venezia	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0
Fiorentina	2	0	0	2	0	7	-7	0

Cagliari 0 Inter Milan 1; Fiorentina 0 Frosinone 3; Juventus 2 Parma 0; Lazio 1 Genoa 0; Monza 2 Udinese 3; Napoli 1 Como 2; Sassuolo 2 Torino 1.

SPANISH LA LIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Real Madrid	3	3	0	0	10	2	8	9
Atlético Madrid	3	2	1	0	7	3	4	7
Alavés	3	2	1	0	5	1	4	7
Barcelona	2	2	0	0	7	0	7	6
Sevilla	3	2	0	1	6	5	1	6
Real Betis	3	2	0	1	4	5	-1	6
D A Coruña	3	1	2	0	5	3	2	5
Osasuna	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
Levante	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
R Santander	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
Espanyol	3	1	0	2	5	4	1	3
Getafe	2	1	0	1	1	3	-2	3
Real Sociedad	3	1	0	2	3	6	-3	3
Villarreal	3	0	2	1	4	5	-1	2
Rayo Vallecano	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
Celta Vigo*	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
Valencia	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	1
Elche	3	0	1	2	3	9	-6	1
Málaga	3	0	1	2	1	7	-6	1
Athletic Bilbao*	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0

*does not include last night's match

Deportivo A Coruña 3 Valencia 1; Levante 5 Real Betis 2; Real Madrid 4 Málaga 0; Real Sociedad 2 Espanyol 1; Sevilla 1 Atlético Madrid 3.

FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

Today

Premier League Aston Villa v Arsenal (8.0).

Enterprise National (3.0): **North** AFC Telford v Bedford; Buxton v Merthyr Town; Chester v Morecambe; Chorley v Brackley; Harborough v Marine; King's Lynn v Scarborough; Macclesfield v Hebburn; Radcliffe v Darlington; South Shields v Spalding; Southport v Hereford; Spennymoor v Hednesford; Worksop v Oxford City. **South** Braintree v Farnborough; Chesham v Dover; Dagenham & Redbridge v Slough; Dorking v Truro; Farnham v Torquay; Folkestone v Hemel Hempstead; Hampton & Richmond v Maidstone; Maidenhead v AFC Totton; Salisbury v Billericay; Tonbridge v Walton & Hersham; Weston-super-Mare v Chelmsford.

Tomorrow

Sky Bet Championship Birmingham v Southampton (8.0); Lincoln City v Blackburn; Portsmouth v Derby; Preston v Bristol City; Sheffield Utd v Bolton; Stoke v Norwich (8.0); Swansea v Watford; West Ham v Wolverhampton. **League One** Bradford City v Cambridge Utd; Bromley v Leyton Orient; Doncaster v Notts County; Huddersfield v Oxford Utd; Leicester v Plymouth; Peterborough v Stevenage; Wycombe v Sheffield Wednesday. **League Two** Accrington Stanley v Grimsby; Bristol Rovers v Colchester; Cheltenham v York; Chesterfield v Gillingham; Crewe v Walsall; Exeter v Barnet; Fleetwood v Oldham; Northampton v Crawley; Rochdale v Shrewsbury; Salford v Newport County; Swindon v Port Vale; Tranmere v Rotherham.

Wednesday

Sky Bet Championship Burnley v Middlesbrough (8.0); Millwall v Wrexham; QPR v Cardiff; West Bromwich v Charlton. **League One** Barnsley v Blackpool; Burton Albion v AFC Wimbledon; Luton v Stockport; Reading v Mansfield (8.0); Wigan v MK Dons.

Vertu EFL Trophy Doncaster v Liverpool U21 (7.0).

William Hill Premiership Celtic v Aberdeen; Dundee v St Johnstone; Falkirk v Rangers (8.0); Kilmarnock v St Mirren; Motherwell v Dundee Utd.

Thursday

William Hill Premiership Hibernian v Hearts.

Friday

Premier League Ipswich v Liverpool (8.0).

Enterprise National Altrincham v Eastleigh.

William Hill Championship Livingston v Stenhousemuir (7.30).

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Saturday

Premier League Brentford v Sunderland; Brighton v Leeds; Fulham v Crystal Palace; Hull v Aston Villa (5.30); Manchester City v Coventry; Newcastle v Bournemouth (12.30); Nottingham Forest v Tottenham .

Sky Bet Championship Burnley v Bristol City; Lincoln City v Southampton (12.30); Millwall v Bolton; Portsmouth v Cardiff; Preston v Blackburn (12.30); QPR v Middlesbrough; Sheffield Utd v Norwich; Stoke v Charlton (12.30); Swansea v Wrexham (8.0); West Brom v Watford; West Ham v Derby. **League One** Barnsley v Stevenage; Bradford City v Mansfield; Burton Albion v Cambridge Utd; Doncaster v Plymouth; Huddersfield v Notts County; Leicester v Oxford Utd; Luton v Leyton Orient; Peterborough v Sheffield Wednesday (12.30); Reading v Blackpool; Wigan v Stockport County (12.30); Wycombe v MK Dons. **League Two** Accrington Stanley v Crawley; Bristol Rovers v Rotherham; Cheltenham v Grimsby; Chesterfield v Barnet; Crewe v York; Exeter v Walsall; Fleetwood v Shrewsbury (12.30); Northampton v Newport County; Rochdale v Gillingham; Salford v Port Vale (12.30); Swindon v Colchester; Tranmere v Oldham.

Enterprise National AFC Fylde v Worthing; Aldershot v Halifax (12.30); Barrow v Sutton Utd; Boreham Wood v Carlisle (5.30); Gateshead v Solihull Moors; Hartlepool v Woking; Hornchurch v Forest Green; Scunthorpe v Harrogate; Southend v Yeovil (12.30); Tamworth v Boston Utd; Wealdstone v Kidderminster. **North** Bedford v Radcliffe; Brackley v Harborough; Darlington v King's Lynn; Hebburn v Chester; Hednesford v South Shields; Hereford v Spennymoor; Marine v Worksop; Merthyr Town v Macclesfield; Morecambe v Buxton; Oxford City v Chorley; Scarborough v AFC Telford; Spalding v Southport. **South** AFC Totton v Hampton & Richmond; Billericay v Dorking; Chelmsford v Salisbury; Dover v Maidenhead; Farnborough v Tonbridge; Hemel Hempstead v Farnham; Horsham v Dagenham & Redbridge; Maidstone v Weston-super-Mare; Slough v Braintree; Torquay v Folkestone; Truro v Chesham; Walton & Hersham v Ebbsfleet.

William Hill Premiership Aberdeen v Kilmarnock; Dundee Utd v Falkirk; Rangers v Motherwell; St Mirren v Celtic (8.0).

William Hill Championship Arbroath v Dunfermline; Inverness CT v Raith; Partick v Ayr; Queen's Park v Morton. **League One** Cove Rangers v Alloa; East Fife v Ross County; East Kilbride v Hamilton; Peterhead v Montrose; Queen of South v Airdrieonians. **League Two** Clyde v Edinburgh City; Dumbarton v Elgin; Forfar v Stranraer; Kelty Hearts v Annan; Stirling Albion v Spartans.

Sunday

Premier League Arsenal v Chelsea (4.30); Everton v Manchester Utd (2.0).

Sky Bet Championship Birmingham v Wolverhampton (12.0).

William Hill Premiership Hearts v Dundee; St Johnstone v Hibernian.

Get back in The Game

The Premier League is back. Hear expert analysis and discussion of every issue on and off the pitch in our agenda-setting football podcast.

Find The Game wherever you get your podcasts

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES